

Berlin Glas, e.V.

## Annual Director's Report: 2017



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## January:

- In July 2016, we suspected the crucible (the large pot holding 180kg of molten glass) was leaking, as we saw a crack. With everything going on in the Summer and September - a very busy month - only weeks away, we decided to wait until we shut down in December to change the pot. In December, after celebrating our 5th Anniversary, we unscrewed the bolts only to find out the crack went all the way around the pot, and that the entire bottom of the furnace was a solid mass of composite glass and frax! We had to take all the glass and material out of the pot and Rudy Faulkner and Jesse Günther re-engineered the entire installation. At the beginning of January, board member Jay Macdonell flew to Berlin to assist us in reassembling the furnace. He also helped Rudy make a new door and cil. If there is ever a leak again, the glass will not go beyond a protective ring. The furnace is so well engineered and runs more efficiently.
- On the 12th of January, Nadania Idriss was invited to give a talk about our work in Bernau with the refugees at a round table meeting at the Akademie der Kunst.
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- We resumed teaching the sculpture class at the KH Berlin. However, the snow and cold weather made it difficult to make molds, so we postponed the classes until the beginning of February. We will keep this in mind for next year, and not schedule any classes for the month of January.
- Our first artist in residence in 2017 was Omer Arbel. He was born in 1976 in Jerusalem and grew up in Vancouver, Canada. Omer received a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Waterloo (1997) and successively started an apprenticeship in an architectural firm. In 2000, he moved back to Canada, where he completed a degree in architecture; and in 2005, Omer Arbel co-founded BOCCI, the internationally renowned design and lighting company. In 2015, BOCCI 79 opened in Berlin-Charlottenburg.

Exploration of material is at the heart of Omer Arbel's work, combining science and aesthetics. His installations are often site-specific, social interactions, commenting on the complex relationship between art and the physical properties of the material itself. Arbel's work has been exhibited in the Barbican, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Spazio Rossana Orlandi, Monte Clark Gallery, and Dinmore Gallery. He is the recipient of multiple awards, including the 2015 Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Allied Arts Medal. Arbel lives and works

between Vancouver and Berlin.

- The official launch of Australia now Germany 2017 was on 26 January, 2017. The entire Berlin Glas team was invited to the Australian Embassy for the launch party, which was a great time. Our participation in Australia now is significant, and involves 4 major programmes:

#### 12 Months of Klaus Moje

A monthly newsletter highlighting the work of Klaus Moje AO that he made before moving to Australia and that are now in German collections. The text is written by Nola Anderson, an arts writer from Canberra, Australia, and who is writing a major book on the late artist. Treasurer Hans-Martin Lorch is translating the text, and Nadania is organizing the layout and sending the actual email via the Berlin Glas newsletter programme.

#### Collaborative Endeavour III: Contemporary Glass from Canberra + Berlin

Venue: Australian Embassy in Berlin

Dates: June 16 to August 30, 2017

#### Made in Australia – contemporary design from Adelaide and Canberra

Venue: Benhadj&Djilali Galerie

Dates: 29 June – 13 July 2017

Together with the Canberra Glassworks and the JamFactory, we are organizing an exhibition of 10 emerging designers. A call-for (see Appendix I) was sent out in the middle of January, and on the 22nd of March, the jury - Julius Weiland, Flip Selin, Jane Cush, Brian Parkes - met and made the decisions via Sykpe.

#### Artist in Residency at Berlin Glas e.V.

Artist: Simone Slee

Venue: Berlin Glas studio

Dates: 17-21 July 2017

### **February:**

- February was the official launch of Kiez Fusing, our programme dedicated to reaching out to the refugee community in Berlin. The programme was given full support by the Friede Springer Stiftung. Our aim is to have at least 4 workshops per month, and in order to better organize the studio room, we have dedicated Thursdays as our day for our fusing workshops. Our aim is to have at least 4 Kiez Fusing workshops per months, and in February, we had the following:  
04.02.2017: Kein Abseits e.V.  
16.02.2017 AWO  
23.02.2017 Quinoa School
- In the framework of making Thursdays open for fusing classes, we created a Fusing Café (see Appendix II) with the aim of allowing local kids to come and

work with the groups that are scheduled for Kiez Fusing. The studio becomes a meeting point of locals and refugees, who get to share the experience of learning to fuse glass. Not surprisingly, the Fusing Café is starting slowly. We have only had our first drop-in visit in March.

- Kiez Praktikum: Florian Voß will come in 1 time a week for 8 weeks. Nadania has asked Florian to write a text about his experience in kiln forming that we plan to make into a colouring book with - again - Mr. Kiez and Woodstock as the main characters.
- Kids Blow Glas:
- 20.02.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium
- On Friday, February 17th, the Berlin Glas team went to Bernau to present the work we did in the Autumn of 2016.

On the 27th of February, Nadania Idriss was invited by Bullseye Glass Co. to assist in starting a refugee programme modelled after the Multaka: Meeting through Museums. The Portland programme will be similarly called Multaqa: Meeting Point through Glass. The original idea was to organize a lecture and hands on workshop at the Bullseye Projects Studio on the 4th of March. However, this proved difficult because of preprogrammed events and lack of staffing. Nadania, therefore, before leaving Berlin, contacted some of the key NGO's in the Portland area to schedule meetings with the directors.

While in Portland, she, Lani McGregor, co-owner of Bullseye, and Laura O'Quin, head of education at Bullseye Projects, visited them, learning that Portland is a point of entry for the refugees coming to the United States. The largest is Huston. At the moment, there are nearly 1800 refugees in the city, the majority being in suburbs. They have a good support system through the organizations we met; however, many are equally frightened and have a hard time doing rudimentary tasks like grocery shopping. There are a few mentoring programmes, which seem to be beneficial, but there is much still to do to help the migrant community feel welcome.

A few ideas materialized beyond the initial lecture-hands on workshop that Nadania proposed. Portland does not have a large Islamic Culture and both the universities (Reed and Portland State) have Middle Eastern Studies departments, but do not focus on material history. Therefore, inviting an expert to lecture on Islamic Art would prove to be difficult. The workshops, therefore, would involve inviting groups of children refugees and their families to the Saturday Fusing Labs at Bullseye Projects.

On the 4th of March, the last day Nadania was in Portland, Lani McGregor organized a town-hall style meeting for artists and anyone interested in helping with the project. There were about 15 people in attendance, one of whom is an Arabic teacher at a local high school. She herself is Palestinian and immigrated to the United States 12 years ago. She works a lot with refugees and offered to bring groups to the Multaqa workshops.

- A campaign was launched to raise money for our own work with the Multaka: Museum as a Meeting Point. It was sent via email, and in 24 hours, we managed to raise €1500!

## **March:**

- Kiez Fusing:  
04.03.2017 Kein Abseits e.V.  
23.03.2017 AWO  
30.03.2017 a group from a Kita
- Kids Blow Glas:  
06.03.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium  
07.03.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium  
15.03.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium  
17.03.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium
- Shauna Palmer's short story - Mr. Kiez and Woodstock Blow Glass - that she wrote last year was finally illustrated and printed. We plan to give the colouring books to our young visitors to the studio.
- A group of 9 social workers from Sweden visited us at the studio on 22 March to learn more about our work with refugees and our community engagement. We spent 2 hours with the group, giving them a tour of the studio, talking about our work, and the way we teach (some tips and tricks, and annealing schedules!), and we let them make a fused glass panel.

## **April**

- Kiez Fusing:  
01.04.2017 Bettina von Achem Schule  
06.04.2017 Wilhelm-Hauf Grundschule
- Kids Blow Glas:  
01.04.2017 Bettina von Achem Schule
- Tage des Kunsthandwerks 1-2 April 2017
- Girls'Day 2017 27.04.2017

## **May**

- Kiez Fusing:  
04.05.2017 Wilhelm-Hauf Grundschule  
11.05.2017 Leibniz Gymnasium  
16.05.2017 Gustav-Freytag Schule

18.05.2017 Bettina von Achem Schule  
19.05.2017 Bettina von Achem Schule

- Kids Blow Glas:  
03.05.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium  
08-12.05.2017 Wendepunkt  
18.05.2017 Bettina von Achem Schule  
17.03.2017 Leibnitz Gymnasium
- 19.05.2017 Bettina von Achem Schule
- Call-for applications for the Endeavour Award 2018
- Kiez Praktikum: Emil Chisembe will come in 1 time a week for 8 weeks. Nadania has asked Emil to write a text about his experience in kiln forming that we plan to make into a colouring book with - again - Mr. Kiez and Woodstock as the main characters.

## June

- Kids Blow Glas:  
17-18.06.2017 Bauhaus Bernau
- Multaka Mold-Blowing workshop 2-4.06.2017
- BECon Portland, Oregon 22-24.06.2017
- Vernissage Collaborative Endeavour III 15.06.2017
- Vernissage Made in Australia 29.06.2017

## July

- Since January 2017, Nadania Idriss was elected to the Board of North Lands Creative on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, during which there was an informal meeting. Nadania played an active role in the scheduling of the Follwing the successful She attended the annual symposium I am new to the North Lands Board, since January 2017; and although I have friends who have gone to North Lands for the residency, I had never been there myself. I have always heard it is a marvellous place, so serene, and the people I know who have spent time in Lybster come back with the same opinion: it is life changing. Needless to say, I was thrilled to be chosen for the Board, to be part of something so beloved by so many.

As 2017 progressed, I became acutely aware of how often I would hear about the beauty and magic of North Lands Creative. Then in June, at the biannual Bullseye Conference in Portland, on the other side of the world, artist Morgan Van Madison related his own personal transformations of his practice after having spent time in the Highlands. His sculptures from 2013 were in direct response the stunning stratified layers that denote the coastline along Caithness. As I sat there watching his work unfold before the audience, I was officially yearning for North Lands.

I returned to Berlin, but North Lands was looming in the back of my mind. I really wanted to be there as soon as possible, and given the Leap of Faith conference was just around the corner, and hearing that Michael Rogers would be there, I decided to go. We would have an informal Board meeting to get to know one another, and get a head start on some of the ideas we wanted to propose for future programming. I was looking forward to seeing old friends, meeting new colleagues, and enjoying the landscape that I had heard so much about.

From the moment I landed in Inverness, and – for those who know whom I am talking about – Steve picked me up, I felt like I was visiting home. A quick tour up the stunning coast line, replete with seals, flying fish, and a tremendous castle, I arrived in Lybster just in time for dinner: at Karen's house/café, none the less! The amazing Annie Catrell was half way through her Master Class, and here at the dinner table was a chair waiting, and a group of extraordinary artists smiling and welcoming me as if I had been there since day one. Wine was poured and within an hour, I had forgotten I had just arrived.

The warmth and openness of the NorthLands staff and instructors, the students, the Board members, with whom I am honoured be colleagues, and the smiles given by the local residents, and of course, Old Pulteney (17) made me feel at home. No matter where you turn, you are welcomed in; and given these days when place and belonging are constantly under debate, it was refreshing to be somewhere so embracing.

As I sat in the taxi at 3:00am winding and wafting it's way down to the Inverness airport, I felt so fortunate for I had too been transformed by this magical place.

- AiR Simone Slee: Berlin Glas's Artist-in-Residency programme hosts internationally-known and emerging artists and designers in the studio for a 5 day residency, working closely with our hot-shop team to explore and develop concepts that can be translated into glass. In July 2017, we invited Dr. Simone Slee, head of the sculpture department at the University of Melbourne Victorian College of Arts (VCA) for the 5 day residency.

Simone Slee never worked with glass before, and used the opportunity to explore the material within the concepts of her practice. She makes work that has its origins in sculpture, producing objects, photographs, videos, and installations that often engage the body and have a performative aspect. Her practice investigates concepts of *abfunction*; a term she coined herself, and her practice has led to the surprising and unexpected functions and effects of objects and/or actions.

Simone spent the week investigating the malleability of glass and it's capacity to sustain itself – or the moment before it collapses - when it is blown against stones, bricks or any conflicting material. She also investigated the performative action of glass blowing making multiple videos, including one in the dark, focusing on the changing colours as the glass cools on the pipe.

Simone Slee completed a PhD at the School of Art, Faculty of VCA and MCM, University of Melbourne. She has also attended the Staedelschule, Frankfurt am Main as a guest student of Professor Ayse Erkmen (2004-6), after being awarded the Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship (2004). She has a Masters of Arts (Research) from RMIT University (2002), a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Sculpture) from the Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University (1995), and Bachelor of Applied Science (Landscape Architecture) from RMIT (1988), Melbourne.

Simone Slee's recent solo exhibitions include: Help a Sculpture, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, VCA (2015); How long, India Art Fair, New Delhi (2012), and Houses that are happy to help with at least one of the problems of art, Atelier Frankfurt, Germany, (2010). Notable group exhibitions include: Crossing Paths with Vivian Maier, Melbourne International Arts Festival, (2014); Less is More, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, (2012); Private Space, Common Space at the Margaret Lawrence Gallery (2008), VCA, University of Melbourne; Yoko Ono, Dream Universe, Portikus, and Made in Frankfurt, Museum Giersch, Frankfurt am Main, (2005).

The residency was very successful for Simone Slee. She produced a prolific amount of work, as well as document the process with video. It was her first time working with the material and I do not believe it will be the last. Often during the Artist in Residency, the artist hesitates to break free of common treatments in glass blowing. We very often spend the first day explaining the material and its potential to be manipulated in ways that transcend spherical forms and the bubble. Simone Slee understood her possibilities were open and immediately wanted to confront the glass with conflicting materials, such as stone, brick, and metal. The gaffers sandwiched the glass between the material and blew into the pipe to try to expand the glass that emerged from the sides. Again, the conflict in pressure: being pressed and expanded at the same time created an overall tension that we were able to harness for Simone in a sculptural form.

We took the opportunity of having Simone Slee at the studio to invite everyone in Berlin who was involved with Australia now 2017 for a barbeque. In attendance were the key colleagues from the Australian Embassy in Berlin and Tony Grybowski, CEO of the Australia Council.

- Kiez Fusing:  
01.07. Bauhaus Schule Bernau  
05.07. Kein Abseits e.V.  
11.07. ResiArt
- As Madisyn Zabel's residency came to an end, we organized a pop-up exhibition entitled Concurrent, an installation of polished glass fragments that capture the contrasts and the tensions that exist between three-dimensional objects and their flat representations, for which she uses string. She creates a dialogue between geometrical forms made out of glass and their projected



shapes in space.

- Madisyn also expressed interest in teaching a Multaka workshop, so we organized one – called Cold Construction - on 22-23 July 2017. During the 2-day workshop, participants constructed a small sculpture out of glass segments, and learned various processes including, “coldworking,” gluing and painting to create their own glass sculpture. The workshop was difficult to fill, as it was over three days, rather than two, and the technique was more unusual. Madisyn was excellent at teaching making it clear that she has a bright future ahead of her.

## August

- The studio was closed in August; however, we ran two Kiez Fusing workshops:  
03.08. AWO  
31.08. KW Institute

## September

- Kiez Fusing:  
15.09. KW Institute  
29.09. BDP-Luke (Lette Platz)
- Nadania successfully applied for €1500 from the QM Lette Platz in order to build a new cart for the mobile fusing workshops. The idea for a mobile fusing cart started in January 2017, when we were invited to hold a workshop in Bernau, a suburb of Berlin. We found a broken suitcase that someone left in the studio, filled it with the supplies we needed, and jumped on the S-Bahn for the half hour ride. The workshop worked so well, that when classes at the studio were cancelled, we offered the option to travel on-site, instead.

With Jesse Günther’s amazing skills, we built the small cart that will hold all the glass and materials we need to run awesome classes anywhere in and around Berlin! One can catch the Kiez Mobil’s whereabouts on Facebook: [@Kiezmobilfusing](#), Instagram: [@kiezmobil](#), and Twitter: [@kiez\\_mobil](#)

## October

- Multaka Workshop October 6 – 7, 2017: Fusing glass with Silvia Levenson
- In April, Nadania made an application to the Robert Bosch Foundation for to ask for money for the Multaka-Berlin Glas workshops.

## November

- Kiez Fusing:  
09.11. William Hauff Grundschule  
16.11. BDP-Luke

## December

- End of the year party and pop-up exhibition “Disconnected” on December 15, 2017.
- Kiez Fusing:
  - 06.12. Lette Platz (part of the Advent calendar)
  - 07.12. Lette Platz

*Nadania Idriss*

Nadania Idriss  
Managing Director, Berlin Glas e.V.

## **Appendix I: Open-call for entries Made in Australia**

Berlin Glas e.V., Canberra Glassworks, and the JamFactory are pleased to invite emerging designers from Adelaide and Canberra to submit proposals for participation in the 2017 DMY International Festival in Berlin, Germany! Within the framework of Australia now 2017 Germany, Berlin Glas is partnering with the Canberra Glassworks and JamFactory to promote contemporary Australian glass art and design in Germany's capital city. Five successful candidates from Adelaide and Canberra respectively will be selected to have their work shipped and exhibited in Berlin.

Our mutual goal is to create an opportunity for Associates and alumni of the JamFactory training programme and the Canberra Glassworks design community to showcase their innovative and unique works in one of Europe's prominent design fairs. Over the last 13 years, the DMY International Design Festival in Berlin has become a meeting place for the international design community. The festival runs over 4 days showcasing renowned designers, as well as emerging talents. New developments and future trends in interdisciplinary projects are highlighted, blurring the boundaries between art and design. Since 2013, Berlin Glas proudly designed and made the awards for the Festival and the studio has been a featured event in the Design Spots with public glassblowing demonstrations and on-site exhibitions. We are excited to bring a selection of works to the 2017 DMY Festival in an exhibition entitled Made in Australia!

Timeline and process:

16 January: Open call for entries

15 March: Expression of interest to be sent by midnight to: Beverly Growden, Director Canberra Glassworks [beverly.growden@canberraglassworks.com](mailto:beverly.growden@canberraglassworks.com) or Brian Parkes, CEO of the JamFactory [brian.parkes@jamfactory.com.au](mailto:brian.parkes@jamfactory.com.au)

Expression of interest should include: One paragraph on what you would like to exhibit, 5 slides, CV, and artist statement.

20 March: Panel identifies 5 Candidates from each institution Panel Members: Jane Cush, Program Director Canberra Glassworks and an External Consultant, Brian Parkes, CEO JamFactory, Julius Weiland, Instructor, Berlin Glas e.V.

22 March: Successful applicants will be notified by Berlin Glas e.V.

20 April: Works should be sent to the Canberra Glassworks and ready for shipment to Berlin

23-25 June: DMY International Festival

Questions concerning the application process may be addressed to:

Canberra Glassworks Contact: Beverly Growden,  
[beverly.growden@canberraglassworks.com](mailto:beverly.growden@canberraglassworks.com)

JamFactory Contact: Brian Parkes, [brian.parkes@jamfactory.com.au](mailto:brian.parkes@jamfactory.com.au)

Berlin Glas e.V. Contact: Nadania Idriss, [info@berlinglas.org](mailto:info@berlinglas.org)

About Australia now 2017 : <http://germany.embassy.gov.au/beln/home.html>

DMY International Festival: <https://dmyberlin.com/en>

Canberra Glassworks: <http://www.canberraglassworks.com/>

JamFactory: <https://www.jamfactory.com.au/>  
Berlin Glas e.V. : <http://berlinglas.org/>

## Appendix II: Graphic for the Fusing Café



**FUSING  
CAFÉ**

**KIEZ  
FUSING**

Das Fusing Café ist  
von 15:00 bis 18:00 geöffnet!

Kommt vorbei, trinkt eine heiße Schokolade,  
lernt neue Freunde kennen und macht tolle Kunst.  
Es kostet nichts und alle sind willkommen!

friede springer stiftung

 **BERLIN  
GLAS  
e.V.**

**FUSING CAFÉ:** Jeder Donnerstag 15:00 - 18:00  
Berlin Glas e.V. - Provinzstrasse 42a, 13409 Berlin  
S1/S25/S85 Schönholz oder U8 Osloer Str. + M150 Granatenstr.  
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