

## Press Release

### “Meffan Museum announces Prize Winners”

Embargo – please note, the winners are to be announced at the private view on the evening of Friday 26 November 2010 and so the details of the winners should not appear in the press until Saturday 27 November 2010.

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The 2010 Winter Exhibition at The Meffan in Forfar has opened to the public. This popular open exhibition attracts entries from talented artists from all over Scotland and is a firm favourite with visitors.

This festive season sees the eighteenth annual exhibition at The Meffan since it opened its doors in 1992 as an art gallery and museum. The 2010 exhibition has proven bigger than ever, with more entries than any previous year.

Both professional and amateur artists alike submit their work to be scrutinised by the selection panel. As space in The Meffan is limited, only the very best of the work makes it onto the gallery walls for display.

The judging panel, which included local artist Jim Barclay and artist and curator Kim Canale, have selected the winners in the Professional category, and chose Jessamy Kelly's sculptures 'Wings' and 'Wedge' to receive the first prize. Second prize went to Claire Ramsay's oil on canvas 'Little Donkey' and third was awarded to Linda Masson for her ceramic sculpture 'Coastal Nocturne'.

The judges found choosing the winners extremely difficult due to the high standard of entries and so decided to give commendations to twelve other pieces of work.

The winner of the amateur category is still to be decided, as visitors to the exhibition are being asked to cast their vote for their favourite amateur piece. The ballot closes on Saturday 11th December, so there is still plenty of time for visitors to see the exhibition and choose their favourite.

There are a wide variety of artworks on show in a variety of media, including paintings, drawings, fine art prints and sculpture, so there is something to suit every taste. All the pieces are for sale so it is an ideal opportunity to purchase a unique gift or an investment for the future.

The exhibition is open Monday to Saturday from 10.00am to 5.00pm and runs from Saturday 27 November until Saturday 31st December.

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Notes: For further information please contact Jim Boon, Galleries Curator Tel: 01307 474782 email: [the.meffan@angus.gov.uk](mailto:the.meffan@angus.gov.uk)

The Meffan, 20 West High Street, Forfar, Angus, DD8 1BB 01307 474782

## Press Release

### “Museummaker Project at Woodhorn”

#### **Rebecca Chitty & Jessamy Kelly are making Miner’s Helmet, Blue Plaque Plate, Soot Storm at Woodhorn Northumberland Museum Archives and Country Park**

The selected makers Rebecca Chitty and Jessamy Kelly, working with retail consultant and artist Kit Grover, have developed products for sale in the Museum shop.

The Queen Elizabeth II Country Park at Ashington includes: a specially commissioned new Museum housing Woodhorn’s collections; the buildings of the former Woodhorn Colliery, which stretched out under the North Sea; the Northumberland Archives; major temporary exhibitions galleries and a permanent display of paintings by the Ashington Group. Interest in these “Pitmen Painters” has recently heightened. This is in large part thanks to the success of playwright Lee Hall’s National Theatre hit ([www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/pitmen](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/pitmen)).

At Woodhorn, the focus of the museummaker commissions is retail development. Rebecca Chitty’s Miner’s Helmet ceramic bowl and Blue Plaque Plate and Jessamy Kelly’s Soot Storm (a new take on an old favourite – the snow dome) are now on sale. All three products are inspired by the makers’ response to the spirit of the work of the Pitmen Painters.

Rebecca Chitty is a conceptual artist who uses the familiar in unfamiliar ways to challenge perceptions and create new meanings. Her company, ‘Product of Your Environment’ designs interior products and gifts, and regular customers include Tate Modern. Chitty also works as a freelance gallery educator on creative projects with local community groups and schools.

Jessamy Kelly is a designer maker of contemporary glass and ceramics, who often combines the two materials in one piece. She is a specialist in both traditional handcrafted techniques and industrial glass design and manufacture. Clients include Edinburgh Crystal and Kevin McCloud’s homeware brand ‘Place’. Kelly also runs her own art glass business ‘Jessamy Kelly Glass’.

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Notes: For more information on the Woodhorn commissioned pieces please contact the shop at Woodhorn on 01670 528080 (Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 4pm)

## Press Release

### **“JESSAMY KELLY GLASS SCOOPS TOP PRIZE WORTH £5,000 IN 2009 CRAFT&DESIGN AWARDS”**

A talented artisan and designer-maker of contemporary glass and ceramics, Jessamy Kelly, has scooped the top prize worth £5,000 in the 2009 *craft&design* Selected Awards.

Jessamy, who uses a combination of clear glass and unglazed porcelain to produce simple and elegant limited edition designs, polled the highest number of votes in the 'Glass Crafts' category resulting in her receiving the Gold Award. She then went on to achieve the highest number of individual votes, making her the overall winner.

Jessamy says: “It has been such a wonderful experience to win this award and the media support that I have received is a great way to promote my art glass to a wider audience”.

The Awards, launched in January of this year, were introduced by the Craftsman *craft&design* magazine to celebrate 25 years in publishing. It was also seen by editor, Angie Boyer, as an excellent way to raise awareness of the enormous creative talent we have in this country.

“With the challenging economic climate making it particularly difficult for small businesses, and 2009 marking our 25<sup>th</sup> year, we thought the Awards would be a good way to put crafts under the spotlight”, she explained.

“We have sponsored a number of awards in the industry for many years now”, she continued, “two of which are the Craftsman *craft&design* Newcomers and Highly Commended Newcomers Awards at BCTF (the British Craft Trade Fair at Harrogate). The standard of work just seems to get better year on year and we are often hard pushed to select just two recipients.”

As overall winner, Jessamy will feature on the front cover of the special Awards issue of *craft&design* (Jan/Feb 2010) which goes on sale 3<sup>rd</sup> December. She will also receive a cheque for £1,000.

Jessamy's work will be on display at the National Glass Centre, in Sunderland from the 7<sup>th</sup> of September until the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, to celebrate this award.

For further information on Jessamy, or to view the wealth of talent featured on the 'Selected' website, please visit [www.craftmaker.co.uk](http://www.craftmaker.co.uk) or [www.jessamykellyglass.com](http://www.jessamykellyglass.com)

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**Notes:** For further information including additional photographs please contact Jan Lasnon, JLA, 02392 367329 or email [jan@lasnonpr.co.uk](mailto:jan@lasnonpr.co.uk).



## 9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GLASS SYMPOSIUM 2006

Crystalex Glass factory, Nový Bor, Czech Republic. 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006

In October 2006, the Crystalex Glass Factory of Nový Bor, was taken over and pushed to its creative limits by 40 artists international glass artists as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> International Glass Symposium. Over 12 different countries were represented by artists from varied countries such as the United States, Australia, Finland, Great Britain, France, Germany, Latvia, Czech Republic, and Hungary.

The creative force and direction behind this event was the renowned author and Professor Sylva Petrova, who was nominated as the Symposium's official Art Director. Drawing upon her extensive knowledge and expertise of the Art glass world she guided the selection of a wide range of internationally acclaimed stars and upcoming talents. Notably Antoine Lerperlier, Scott Chaseling, Josh Simpson, Paula Bartron, Milan Handl, Vladimir Kopecky, Jirina Zertova and Vese Verrela.

An invitation to the prestigious IGS is considered an honour in the glass-making world. It is my pleasure to report that a group of British glass artists were chosen to represent us James Maskrey, Catherine Forsyth, Vanessa Cutler and Jessamy Kelly.

Each artist was given a team of master glassmakers in order to aid the creation of their individual vision in glass. Produced in the factories workshops using techniques such as free and mould blown glass making, painting, cutting and engraving. The hospitality and unlimited resources of Crystalex were quite remarkable and every artists was granted a free reign of the factory. Each armed with a translator the artists worked for 4 solid days from 6am in the morning until past 6pm everyday to realise there ideas immortalised for future generations in the medium of glass. A broad selection of the artworks produced were prepared for a grand finale exhibition which was officially opened to the public, which is now on permanent display as part of the prestigious Lemberk Castle Glass collection.

"The IGS was first conceived in 1982, its aim was to bring together many of the best glass artisans from around the world to spend a few days creating and exploring the many forms that glass can take in an atmosphere of excitement and freely flowing ideas. Artists are given the resources of the factory at Novy Bor, and are asked to create original works. The only guides that they follow are their imaginations, and the laws of physics. The latter, at times, seem to be broken by some of the stunning results. Crystalex has always tried to maintain and enhance the global reputation of Czech glass." IGS, 2006.

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Notes: For further information please contact the IGS directly.