



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

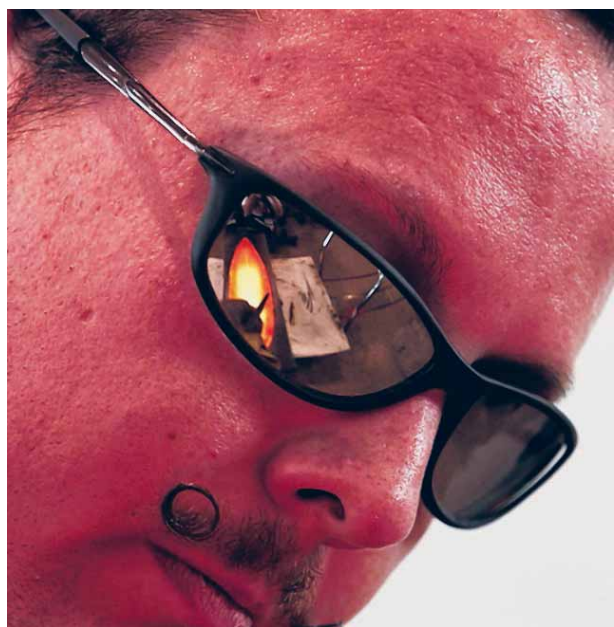
Artist Robert Mickelson works on pieces of leaves made of glass which will be part of a glass sculpture shaped as a bowl during a demonstration during the Glass Art Society convention.

# A week to shine



THE BLADE/AMY E. VOIGT

A glass art piece made by Bertil Vallien on exhibit at the Paula Brown Shop.



THE BLADE/LORI KING

Brazee Street Studio's J.W. May pours hot glass into a sand mold for artist Bertil Vallien at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion.

The Glass Art Society's 42nd Annual Conference this past week brought together passion, artistry, and delicate beauty in a glorious burst of creative energy and enthusiasm.

Glass aficionados of all ages and from far reaches of the globe — places like Australia, Italy, Sweden, and Japan — shared techniques and secrets of an ancient craft. They gathered to celebrate studio glass, a medium that came into its own just 50 years ago, born in Toledo by a handful of committed artists who pushed technology to the limit in pursuit of creativity.

Producing glass art requires attention to detail, an understanding of chemistry, physical strength, a tolerance for heat (and the occasional burn), and a willingness to invest endless hours. Pioneers such as Paul Stankard and Bertil Vallien shared their stories with people uniquely attuned to their work. When you hold a glass orb from someone such as Mr. Stankard in your hands, you're not just feeling its weight. When you study one of Mr. Vallien's sand-cast sculptures, you're not just gazing at something intriguing. You're in touch with the artist's soul.

There was plenty of art to go around for the general public, too: dozens of galleries shimmering with glass, the downtown Gallery Hop that took place on a glorious Friday evening, the fund-raising Goblet Grab, talks, and the opening of Color Ignited: 1962-2012 in the Toledo Museum of Art's new \$3 million Wolfe Gallery for Contemporary Art.

The week culminated in a blast of fun at Saturday night's big, let-your-hair-down, shake-your-glass-dress fashion show and party.

It was a time for the Glass City to shine.

— ROD LOCKWOOD



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Davide Salvadore, from Murano, Italy, works on a piece during an event in the Corning Museum of Glass Roadshow, a mobile studio that allows artists to blow glass in virtually any environment anywhere in the world.



THE BLADE/LORI KING

Emma Lazor and Drew Lasley, both 11, are part of a four-person team making glass planets as part of the Glass Arts Society Conference at the Toledo School for the Arts.



THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER

Joan Freedman of Worcester, Mass., left, Peter Lewnes of Allentown, Pa., and Marian Burke of Greenwich, Conn., participate in the first round of the goblet grab during the GAS conference.



THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON

Carissa Baktay, Calgary, Alberta, wears her glass dress during rehearsal of the Laura Donefer's 9th GAS glass fashion show at Huntington Center.



THE BLADE/LORI KING

OSU's Nate Ricciuto pours glass as part of a student hot demo at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavilion.