

Toots Zynsky

Biography

Born: Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., March 25, 1951

B.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, R.I., U.S.A., 1973

Education

1979 Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, Special Student Advanced Glass Program (Fall Semester)

1973 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, Independent degree project video/glass/sculpture (August)

1973 B.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

1971 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, Glassblowing Workshop (June through August)

1970 Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deere Isle, Maine, Glassblowing Workshop (August)

Honors

2017 Masters of the Medium Award, James Renwick Alliance, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

2016 Corning Specialty Glass Residency, Corning Museum of Glass, Sullivan Park Science and Technology Center, Corning, NY, U.S.A

2015 Smithsonian Visionary Award 2015, Smithsonian Institution & Smithsonian Women's Committee, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

2013 Glass in Venice Award 2013, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia, Venice, Italy

2013 Women of Excellence Civic Award, Women's Center of Rhode Island, Providence, RI, U.S.A.

2008 Elected to the College of Fellows, American Craft Council, Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A.

2006 Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts, Providence, RI, U.S.A

1999 Innovation in a Glassworking Technique, UrbanGlass Annual Award, New York, NY, U.S.A.

1997 Bavarian State Prize, Die Bayerische Staatsregierung, Munich, Germany

1988 Rakow Commission, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY, U.S.A

1986 Visual Artist Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

1984 Research Grant, Stichting Klankschap (Foundation), Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Music recording and research, Ghana (1984-1985)

1982 Emerging Visual Artist Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Artist-in-Residence (August), Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, WA, U.S.A

1981-82 Artist-in-Residence Grant (in conjunction with the New York Experimental Glass Workshop), New York State Council on the Arts, New York, NY, U.S.A.

Guest Lecturer/Visiting Artist

2019 Winter Speaker Series, Newport Art Museum, Newport, RI, U.S.A.

2018 Glass Art Society Conference: "Il Percorso de Vetro - The Glass Path", Venice, Italy,

Glassblowing Demonstration - Venini and Co. Fornace, Glassblowing Demonstration - Effetre Fornace, San Pietro Church, Venini Panel

"Engineering New Art Forms", Page Hazlegrove Lectureship in Glass Art 2017, MIT Glass Lab, Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge Massachusetts

"Meet the Masters of the Media"

Visarts in Rockville, Maryland

<https://jra.org/scw-masters-lecture>

(James Renwick Alliance 2017 Masters of the Medium Award)

2015 Chrysler Museum of Art, Perry Glass Studio, Lecture and Residency, Norfolk, Virginia
(September 2015)

Pittsburgh Glass Center, Art on Fire, Honorary Artist, Lecture, Demonstration, Pittsburgh, PA
(September 2015)

The Smithsonian Craft Show (April 2015), guest speaker, Washington, DC

Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Lecture, Toronto, Canada

Hooks Epstein Gallery, Lecture, Houston, Texas

2014 Habatat Galleries, Lecture, West Palm Beach Florida

2013 Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design, Lecture and Demo

National American Glass Club, Lecture in collaboration with The New Bedford Museum of
Glass

Ohio State University, Cleveland, Ohio, Visiting Artist and Lecturer

2012 SOFA Chicago, Pioneers of American Studio Glass, Part Two panel discussion

Corning Museum of Glass “Celebrating 50 Years of American Studio Glass” seminar. The
Double X Factor Lecture by Toots Zynsky

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Panel with William Warmus and
Matthew Szosz, Washington, DC

Glass Art Society 2012 Conference, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo OH, History Panel, Bill
Warmus Moderator

Toots Zynsky and Peter Hoch The Glass Panel, Dual lecture, Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton,
MA

2010 Harvard University, visiting lecturer

SOFA WEST, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Guest Lecture Series: Artist Mentor Discussion: Toots
Zynsky and Harue Shimomoto

2009 SOFA WEST, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Guest Lecture Series: Open Doors

Nantucket Atheneum, Nantucket, MA Guest Lecture Series

2008 Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design Tuesday Talks Lecture Series

Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Living Glass History Project, in-studio live webcam video conference guest lecturer/interactive interview (“virtual” visiting artist educational program pilot course).

2006 Toots Zynsky Lecture and Workshop, Fundacion Centro Nacional del Vidrio, Real Sitio de San Ildefonso, Segovia, Spain

2005 Notojima Glass Art Museum, Notojima-machi, Japan, Toots Zynsky Lecture and Workshop

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer

College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI, U.S.A., Guest Lecturer

Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA, Guest Lecturer

2004 Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, N.Y, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer

Sarutahiko Jinjya Shoha Museum, Ise, Japan Guest Lecture accompanying solo exhibition

Corning Museum Of Glass, Corning, N.Y, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer

UrbanGlass, Brooklyn, N.Y, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer and demonstration

2003 Toots Zynsky Seminar, special glass making techniques workshop and lecture, Kanazu Forest of Creation, Fukui, Japan

Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, USA, Guest Lecturer

2002 Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, Guest Lecturer

2000 American Craft Museum, New York, NY, USA, Guest Lecturer

1999 Koganezaki Glass Museum, Kamogun, Japan, Guest Lecturer accompanying solo exhibition

Museo del Vidrio, Monterrey, Mexico, Guest Lecturer accompanying exhibition

1998 Delaware Museum of Art, USA, Guest Lecturer

1997 Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI, U.S.A., Guest Lecturer
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer

1996 Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Guest Professor, Glass Program,
Second Semester

1995 Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, Washington DC, U.S.A, Guest Lecture

1994 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, U.S.A., Guest Lecture

1992 Glass Art Society 22nd Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, Guest Lecture
Lecture read by Jean Luc Olivié of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

1990 Zürich, Switzerland, Sanske Gallery, Guest Lecture

1988 28th Seminar on Glass, the Corning Museum of Glass, NY, U.S.A, Guest Lecture
Yamaha Corporation, Tokyo, Japan

1987 External Examiner, West Surrey College of Art, Farnham, England
Glass Program, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, Guest Lecture

1986 External Examiner, West Surrey College of Art, Farnham, Surrey, England

1985 Cincinnati Art Center, Cincinnati, OH
B.A.G. Conference, West Surrey College of Art, Farnham, Surrey, UK, Guest Lecture

1984 G.A.S. Conference, Corning, NY, Guest Lecturer
UCLA, Artist-in-Residence, Spring Semester, Los Angeles, CA

1983 Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Guest Lecture
“The Fine Art of Private Commissions”, Dimock Gallery, George Washington University,
Washington, DC, Guest Panelist

1982 “Contemporary Glass”, Art History Program, New York University, New York, NY, Guest
Lecture
Continuing Education Program Lecture, “Contemporary Glass”, Scarsdale, NY

Class Program, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, Guest Lecture

1981 “Alternative Education Programs in Glass Arts”, Glass Art Society Conference, Seattle, WA, Guest Panelist

Video Performance, Collaboration with Buster Simpson, Pratt Fine Art Center, Seattle, WA (for G.A.S. Conference)

Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA, Guest Lecture

1979 Glassblowing Workshop with Therman Statom, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

1975 “Studio Glass Movement in the U.S.”, Williams College, Williamstown, MA. Guest Lecture

Related Professional Experience

2016 Residency: Corning Specialty Glass Residency, Corning Museum of Glass, Sullivan Park Science and Technology Center, Corning, NY, USA

2013 Research Residency: Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Vittore Branca International Center for the Study of Italian Culture, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy (June 2013)

2010 Research Residency: Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Vittore Branca International Center for the Study of Italian Culture, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy (October to November 2010)

Advisory Committee AIDA/Association of Israel’s Decorative Arts, New York, NY, USA

2009-2012 Board of Trustees Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI USA

2004-present Board of Governors Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence, RI USA

2004-2019 PASA (Providence After School Alliance), Board Directors, Providence, RI, USA

2002-Present Advisory Board, Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, Ebeltoft, Denmark

Board of Trustees, Festival Ballet Providence, RI, USA

Advisory Board, Urban Glass, Brooklyn, NY, USA

2001-2002 Designed and produced the ten torches for the Torch Relay, Paralympics Opening Ceremonies Salt Lake City, Utah

1996 Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Guest Professor, Glass Program, Second Semester

1991-92 Designed and executed series of limited edition pieces for E.O.S. Murano, Italy

1984-85 Ghana, 6 months special research project, to record and research the living music of Ghana in collaboration with the Ghanaian Ministry of Culture, the Institute of African Studies, Legon, Ghana and the Klankschap Foundation, Holland

1984 Invited by VENINI, Spa of Venice, Italy to design a special series of "unique" pieces to add to their line.

U.C.L.A., Artist-in-Residence, Visiting Critic, Los Angeles, CA

Pilchuck Glass School, Instructor, Special Workshop in Fusing, Slumping, Pate-de-verre

1981-83 During this time the artist executed a variety of special projects in glass, including work for advertising firms, production companies, and designs for production.

1981-83 TEAM OF FIVE who reestablished and rebuilt the Second New York Experimental Glass Workshop, Department Head, Hot Glass Program and established alliance with Parsons School of Design/The New School Faculty, Crafts Program

1982 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington. Artist-in-Residence (August)

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deere Isle, Maine, Instructor Hot Glass Workshop (July)

1980-81 New York Experimental Glass Workshop, Assistant Director

1980 Pilchuck Glass Center, assisted Dan Dailey, Hot Glass Workshop

1971-73 Assisted Dale Chihuly in the founding and establishment of the Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, U.S.A.

Professional Positions

1983-present

Toots Zynsky (studio), Inc., President/CEO and Artist (creator of unique works of art)

1981-1982

Parsons School of Design/The New School, New York, NY, USA Part-time faculty

1980-1983

New York Experimental Glass Workshop (Now UrbanGlass, Brooklyn, NY)

Assistant Director, Head of Educational Program and Hot Glass Facility