BERLIN GLAS e.V.
The Art of Working with Glass

Berlin Glas e.V. started on December 9, 2011. The opening ceremony marked the very first hot-glass melting furnace with public access in Germany’s capital; and since then, the studio has grown into an important centre for contemporary sculpture using the fascinating material of glass. Our goal is to inspire, educate and offer research opportunities for people interested in glass as a medium for artistic expression.

We built international relations with some of the most outstanding institutions, including the Australian National University in Canberra, the Corning Museum of Glass in New York, and the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland. We have taught sculpture at the Berlin Kunsthochschule Weißensee, and for the ETH-Zürich.

Each year, we host renowned artists for our residency programme. Some of the people we worked with include Monica Bonvicini, Mona Hatoum, Robin Rhode and Julieta Aranda.

Our youth programme – Kids Blow Glas – was launched in July 2012, with the kind support of the United States Art Envoy Program. The success of Kids Blow Glas was quickly noticed and we began to regularly host youths from local schools and youth centres in Berlin. In 2013 and 2014, we organized a design-exchange with the prominent Hilltop Artists in Tacoma, Washington. This involved our two groups trading ideas based on the common theme of international friendship via email. The kids in Tacoma rendered our bear holding two flags and our group made the two puzzle-flags the Tacoma kids thought of. We then sent the sculptures back to each other. This was a wonderful project that not only engaged the youths in collaborative glass-making, but also brought together children of different cultures, who bonded with each other through a common material – glass.

Our youth programme has now expanded to include Kiez Practikum and Kiez Fusing. The former invites a youth, who has participated in Kids Blow Glas to spend 2 weeks with us on an internship. Kiez Fusing is a special project for refugee children between 5 and 12 in Berlin.
Profile

Berlin Glas, e.V.’s mission is to share the art and skill of making art with glass with the public and provide a resource to artists of all media. The underlying message that working in collaboration with international artists who work with various media doesn’t just broaden someone’s artistic capacity, but actually creates a culture of peace.

We have had the honour of being recognized by UNESCO and given moral support for our endeavours to create a platform for artists, and for helping to safeguard the centuries-old process of working with glass. We were invited to be part of the International Year of Light in 2015, and organized workshops and events to include the theme of light.

Berlin Glas e.V. is a dynamic and friendly studio located in Reinickendorf, on the boarder of Wedding and Pankow, and within walking distance from the Bildhauerwerkstatt and Ufer Studios. The studio team is composed of graduate-level international artists who are excited to share their knowledge and skills. We teach classes for beginners and intermediates in glass blowing, painting on glass, kiln forming and small-scale casting.
Kiez Praktikum (KP) will offer youths between 15 and 18 an internship opportunity at the studio. The KP will spend a maximum 2 weeks, ca. 6hrs daily assisting the Studio Manager in managing and preparing the studio for our daily tasks and assisting with some of the projects. In 2016, both our KP’s worked on making a booklet for kids to understand what glassmaking is.

Kids Blow Glas was first launched in the Summer of 2012, with financial support from the US Embassy Public Affairs Programme. The objective is to give young people, between the ages of 13 and 18, an opportunity to learn the art of glass blowing, and at the same time, learn skills in communication, forming interpersonal connections, and building trust. Similar programmes have a very strong success rate in the United States; and as evidenced during the last four years in Berlin, the Kids Blow Glas programme inspired community building and outreach, as well as fostering intercultural relationships, and setting building blocks for some of their futures. So far, we have worked with local schools, youth clubs, and most recently, an Intercultural Garden in Lichtenberg, where we helped to build a traditional wood-fired glass-melting furnace.

Youth Programmes

Berlin Glas e.V. established 3 special programmes geared towards creating a platform, where young people 5 and 18 years old have access to this extraordinary art form at no cost.
The Fusing Lab was launched in 2014, after the renowned Bullseye Glass Co. and BVD Pece donated glass and a fusing kiln respectively. The circa 2000 year-old technique is safe for children as young as 5 years old, and the potential to foster confidence and creativity in adolescents is limitless! Kids are given clear glass panels, on which they create their own glass mosaic or picture using smaller pieces of coloured glass. The panels are subsequently fired over night and fused into a colourful work-of-art. We began to teach glass fusing workshops with one of the local primary schools, and established a “kids station” during our open-studio day. Berlin Glas Fusing Lab also started offering monthly workshops for youth centres looking after the refugees. With the current influx of families escaping the dire conditions, we were keen to reach out and teach glass fusing classes for the children.

Working with diverse groups of youths, we aspire to open the door for ways to communicate, connect and belong. The aim is to transform these youths as they discover the world of art and their own abilities and creativity.

Each time someone takes a class or workshop at Berlin Glas e.V., they are supporting our youth programmes!
Artist-in-Residency (Air)

Berlin Glas e.V.’s Artist-in-Residency programme hosts internationally-known and emerging artists 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.

2016

Julieta Aranda (Mexico)
Vorstand in Residence
Robin Rhode (South Africa)
Monica Bonvicini (Italy)

2015

Silvia Levenson (Argentina)
Klaus Weber (Germany)
Karin Sander (Germany)
Mona Hatoum (Palestine)

2014

Ayşe Erkmen (Turkey)
Club S+S (USA/Germany)
Justin Ginsberg (USA)
Mona Hatoum (Palestine)
Teaching

Workshops
One of our central missions is education! We teach classes for beginners and intermediates in glassblowing, painting on glass, kiln forming and small-scale casting. Whether participants have experience with glass or not, they can register for a class from our ongoing Glassblowing Programme and our Visiting Artists Master Series Programme.

◇ Glassblowing Programme
This programme is mostly run by the studio team and includes a wide range of workshops, that allows participants to go step by step through the glassblowing art and technique.

◇ Visiting Artists Master Series Programme
Each year, Berlin Glas e.V. hosts known-international artists to share their knowledges and techniques during a 5 day-master class.
We have been working with:
Joseph Cavalieri (USA)
Anne Petters (Germany)
Jeff Zimmer (USA)
Tobias Møhl (Denmark)

Guest Instructor
Berlin Glas e.V.’s studio team has been invited to teach by the following Art Schools:
◇ China Academy of Art, Hongzhou, China - April 2016
◇ ETH- Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland - February 2016
◇ Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin - ongoing since 2015
Universities Collaborations

Collaborative Endeavors – University Graduates as Visiting Artists in Residence

Making opportunities for recent university graduates is an important mission for Berlin Glas e.V. We created a professional development residency in order to bring a mutual, collaborative benefit linking graduates, the studio and the city of Berlin together. In this mutual exchange, young, emergent artists are able to gain an experience in a young, emergent non-profit organization. Glass is new to Berlin, and by bringing students from institutions - where glass is taught extensively - wider technical approaches ultimately nurture the budding “glass scene” in Berlin. At the same time, our visiting artists are invited to design and teach a workshop, assist us with commissions, and participate in special events, such as our Open House and the Berlin International Design Festival.

◊ Australian National University School of Art, Canberra (AU)
  2016  Kate Nixon
  2015  Marcel Hoogstad Hay / Alexandra Frasesmith / Charles Walker
  2014  Ruth Oliphant / Madeline Prowd

◊ National College of Art and Design, Dublin (IR)
  2015  Jennifer Mulligan
  2014  Sadhbh Mowlds
  2013  Jesse Günther
Every year, Berlin Glas e.V. has the opportunity to be involved with special projects that have included various local, seasonal festivals, conferences and demonstrations. Berlin Glas e.V. is organizing some events in its own studio as well, and has been supporting partners in the UNESCO International Year of Light 2015!

Events

- Girls’Day - 2016
- UNESCO International Year of Light - 2015
- Creation of a strange symphonie - 2013 & 2014
- Pictoplasma - 2012

Exhibitions

2016
Collaborative Endeavour: Contemporary Glass Canberra + Berlin, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, Germany

2015
Collaborative Endeavour: Contemporary Glass Canberra + Berlin, Australian Embassy, Berlin, Germany
Flutter, curated by Youssef al-Khoury

2014
Metamorphosis, Jesse Günther, 2014
2013

*This Life Will Self Destruct in 10…9…8…7*, curated by Justin Ginsberg for the Berlin Bescher Biennale, 2013

**Conferences (as participant)**

2016

“Craftsman, Glassblower, Artist?” paper given by Jesse Günther and William Rudolph Faulkner, College of Crafts, China, Academy of Arts

“Safeguarding Glassmaking as an Important Intangible Heritage – Traditional and Innovative Approaches” paper given by Nadania Idriss, Arab-German Young Academy (AGYA)

2015

“Berlin Glas e.V. – Berlin’s first public access studio” paper given by Nadania Idriss, Young DGG

Jesse Günther and Jeff Ballard, Demonstrating Artists at Ausglass, Adelaide, Australia

“The Importance of Collaboration” paper given by Nadania Idriss, Australian National University School of Art, Canberra, Australia

2014

“Looking forward in the 21st Century: New Perspectives on Glass + Contemporary Art” paper given by Nadania Idriss, DGG, Coburg, Germany

Nadania Idriss and Valentine Destrait, Demonstrating Flameworking, EHSM Conference, Hamburg, Germany

2012

“What is Berlin Glas?” paper given by Nadania Idriss, EHSM Conference, Berlin, Germany

“Building Berlin Glas e.V.” paper given by Nadania Idriss, European Glass Context, Bornholm, Denmark

Bee Kingdom, Demonstrating Artists, Pictoplasma, Berlin, Germany

**Conferences (as host)**

2016

Young DGG
Arab-German Young Academy (AGYA)

**Artists Demonstrations in Berlin Glas e.V. studio**

Kate Nixon (New Zealand)
Thorsten Rötzsch (Germany)
Marcel Hogstad Hay (Australia)
Jay Macdonell (Canada)
Jesse Günther (Germany)
Christophe Genard (Belgium)
Madeline Prowd (Australia)
Justin Ginsberg (USA)
Nancy Callan (USA)
Katherine Gray (USA)
Anne Petters (Germany)
Jeff Ballard (USA)
Bee Kingdom (Canada)
**Press+Video**

- Glashaus / Glasshouse Magazin/e – Collaborative Endeavour: Klaus Moje, Richard Whiteley und der Canberra School of Art zu Gast in Berlin / Collaborative Endeavour: Klaus Moje, Richard Whiteley and the Canberra School of Art Glass workshop visiting Berlin – January 2016 - PDF
- Australian National University – A German homecoming for the ANU School of Art Glass Workshop – 29 October 2015
- School of Art, ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences – ANU School of Art Glass Workshop showcased in Berlin – 25 September 2015
- UrbanGlass-Glass Quarterly – OPENING: “Canberra + Berlin” celebrates the Australian-German glass art connection – 3 September 2015
- ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences – Glass graduates Berlin bound – 12 November 2014
- Savoteur Berlin – Berlin Glas e.V., some like it hot – 25 September 2014
- Urban Glass Hot Sheet – PERFORMANCE: Justin Ginsberg challenges the traditional in Berlin residency – 24 June 2014
- DMY Festival – Behind Glass: DMY Awards Trophies 2014 – 27 May 2014
- (smow) blog compact – Berlin Design Week Special: Berlin Glas – 26 May 2014
- Skrby12 – Mona Hatoum at Berlin Glas e.V. – 22 April 2014
- Flux FM – 07:20 and 09:40 – 20 January 2013
- Berlin Glas eV on Flux FM
- Artconnect Berlin – How I learned to love glass at Berlin Glas e.V. – 19 December 2013
- Episode of ZIPP! on RTL – 30 November 2013
- Artconnect Berlin – Berlin Glas e.V. Workshop: Introducing the Hot Shop – 24 October 2013
- Sugar High – blow-up: berlin’s first glassblowing courses begin – 12 January 2012
- The Glass Quarterly Hot Sheet – Berlin Glas, the first open access facility in this European art center, debuts – 02 December 2011
- The Glass Quarterly Hot Sheet – Berlin to be site of new nonprofit glass center in 2011 – 14 December 2010
Team

Board of members

◊ Nadania Idriss (founder and director)
Nadania is the founder and director of Berlin Glas. She is from California originally and along side running the studio, she is writing a PhD in art history at the Freie University in Berlin.

◊ Hanna Sotkiewitcz (co-director)
Hanna Sotkiewitcz studied Art History and recently completed a PhD in Anthropology in Frankfurt. She is one of the founding members of Berlin Glas, and has helped raise more than €10,000 for our youth programme!

◊ Clementine Schach von Wittenau (secretary)
Clementine is the former director of the prestigious European Museum of Modern Glass in the Coburg Veste. She has written many important books and articles on contemporary glass, and served as editor in chief of Glashaus Magazine.

◊ Hans-Martin Lorch (treasurer)
Hans-Martin is an architect by training and currently owner and director of Lorch + Seidel contemporary. Hans-Martin has been part of Berlin Glas since its opening in 2011.

◊ Youssef El-Khoury (auditor)
Youssef completed a PhD in architecture at the TU Berlin in 2015. Originally from Lebanon, he is currently working as exhibition designer at the Pergamon Museum. Youssef is one of the original founding members of Berlin Glas.

◊ Franziska Springer (advisor)
Franziska Springer studied glass design in Austria, and since 1997, she has built her practice in Berlin. She recently completed a degree in architecture, and in 2015, inspired us to start our Fusing Lab and Kiez Fusing programme, for which she is the lead instructor!

◊ Jay Macdonell (advisor)
Jay is a founding member of Berlin Glas, and has been a constant support and mentor for the studio ever since it was still an idea! He is a professional artist based in Victoria, BC, Canada, and the Education Coordinator at the Pilchuck Glass School.

◊ Amy Schwartz (advisor)
Amy is the founding director of The Studio at the world-renown Corning Museum of Glass. She has been on the Berlin Glas Board since May 2016.

◊ Jeff Ballard (advisor)
Jeff is a professional artist based in Eugene, Oregon, USA. He is one of the original founding members of Berlin Glas and helped start the Kids Blow Glas Programme in 2012.
Studio Team

Behind the scenes in the administration...

◊ Nadania Idriss (managing director)
Nadania is the founder and director of Berlin Glas. She is from California originally and along side running the studio, she is writing a PhD in art history at the Freie University in Berlin.

◊ Valentine Destrait (public relations manager)
In 2010, Valentine Destrait completed an MA in Cultural Management from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles in Brussels, Belgium. Since 2013, she works part-time at Berlin Glas managing the administration and communication for the studio.

◊ William Rudolph Faulkner (gaffer & instructor)
Rudy is from California and finished his MFA at the Southern Illinois University in 2012. He completed a second MFA at the University of Trier in 2015 and is a professional artist living and working in Berlin.

◊ Julius Weiland (gaffer & instructor)
Julius is a professional artist living and working in Berlin. He is one of the founding members of Berlin Glas, and most recently has joined our team to teach mold-making and introducing casting to the studio.

◊ Jesse Günther (studio manager, gaffer & instructor)
Born in Ireland, Jesse studied Fine Arts at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin. He did an internship at Berlin Glas in 2013, and has been working as Studio Manager since May 2014.

◊ Sadhbh Mowlds (hot shop assistant, cold shop coordinator & instructor)
Sadhbh completed a BFA from the National College of Art and Design in her hometown Dublin. She was an intern at Berlin Glas in 2014 and continues to work in the studio part-time.

... and in the Hot-shop