



ROBERT HELD

ART GLASS

Hot Glass

A term not only used to describe what we make and how we make it, but also our passion for the glass itself. Fire and heat are evident in the colours, the lines and the shapes of our pieces. At Robert Held Art Glass we strive to produce works of art that appeal to the connoisseur in all of us.

Every piece that leaves our studio, whether a one-of-a-kind vase or a beautiful paperweight, receives the same care and attention from our artisans.

For over 25 years Robert Held has lead the Canadian art glass industry, establishing the first college-level art glass program and influencing the art across North America. His pieces are in the collections of royalty and governments and can be part of your home collection.





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Artist's Statement

“Being physical with color and form is my love. After experimenting with many different media, I discovered glass and was instantly captivated. The clarity of the glass, the roar of the furnaces, the heat, and even the constant danger were all factors that influenced my choice of this difficult yet beautiful medium.

Glassblowing allows me to explore both painterly concerns and my fascination with surface decoration, while continuing to challenge the other physical and creative skills required to take the vessel shape in ever new directions.

My intimate relationship (talking to) the hot glass, the laying on of colors, layer upon layer, the addition of textures through broken glass shards, threads of molten glass and other techniques, is an incomparable experience. This fickle, molten mass will allow itself to be coaxed only by those who know its language.

I strive to create pieces that provide both a tactile and visual pleasure. It is through this experience that I can share my passion for glass with the world.”

Robert H. Held





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Artist's Biography

Born in Santa Ana, California, Robert Held aspired to be an artist from an early age. His father, a sculptor, only lived to see the beginnings of Robert's talent but passed on his appreciation of art in many forms. After winning the "Ebell Award" for promising students he studied painting at Whittier College. He then made the Dean's List at San Fernando State College, where he studied ceramics and received a Bachelor of Education in Fine Arts. While pursuing a Master's Degree in Fine Arts at the University of Southern California Robert was awarded the graduate assistantship. At this time he won the "Glen Lukins" award for new work in ceramics.

Upon graduating, Robert was offered the position of Head of Ceramics at the new Sheridan College - School of Design in Ontario, Canada. In 1968, after a visit to the Penland School of Crafts he discovered his new love – glass blowing.

Inspired in a new direction he returned to Sheridan and launched Canada's first college-level hot glass program in 1969. This program allowed many North American artists to become skilled in the medium and established Robert Held as the pioneer of art glass in Canada.

Company History

After leaving the teaching world Robert moved to Calgary to work in the glass industry and eventually started his own hot glass studio – Skookum Art Glass Inc. – in 1978.

Robert Held Art Glass was born in 1987 after Robert and his future wife Chris decided to move to Vancouver and experience the lifestyle that the West Coast had to offer. Since then, the company has grown to become Canada's largest hot glass studio and the line is carried in major museum stores, large retailers and galleries of all sizes.

Using techniques that date back 2000 years, Robert Held Art Glass continues to inspire and amaze, including our new Crucible line of collectible vases crafted with dichroic glass and 24-carat-gold leafing. Robert's glasswork graces the tables of royalty and his glass sculptures can be found in major collections such as the Roland Michener and the Indusman.





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Significant Honours, Awards & Exhibitions

- October 2006 • **Canadian Museum of Civilization** - Gateneau, QC: *Unique: 30 years of outstanding crafts* exhibition featuring Decanter 1973 and Vase 1980
- June 2006 • **Harbinger Gallery** - Waterloo, ON: feature artist
- May 2006 • **Mills Brothers** - Halifax, NS
- **Reception and presentation of "The Northern Lights"** duplicate bowl to The Honourable Myra A. Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia at Government House
- June 2005 • Elected to the **Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts (RCA)**: exhibition and reception held in honour of recipients at Rideau Hall attended by The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada and Patron of the RCA - Ottawa, ON
- May 2005 • **Ontario Crafts Council** - Toronto, ON: feature artist
- April 2004 • **Harbinger Gallery** - Waterloo, ON: "Expressions Beyond Glass" a solo painting exhibition
- August 2003 • Recipient of **Canadian Gift & Tableware Association Award** Best Giftware, Handmade & Contemporary Craft Category
- June 2003 • **Province of British Columbia Archives** - Victoria, BC: Presented "The Northern Lights" Duplicate Commemorative Golden Jubilee Bowl to the Government of British Columbia
- October 2002 • Presentation of "The Northern Lights" Commemorative Golden Jubilee Bowl to **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** - Vancouver, BC
- February 1995 • **Circle Craft Gallery** - Vancouver, BC: "Lotusland 1995"
- March 1994 • **Las Olas Art Festival 25th Anniversary** - Fort Lauderdale, FL: Juried show of Artisans - Finalist, "Best of Show"
- May 1993 • **Braithwaite & James** - Regina, SK: "50 Years - A Retrospective" solo exhibition
- May 1992 • Circle Craft of British Columbia - Vancouver, BC: **Recipient of 1992 Gold Award for Excellence in Craft**
- 1990 • **Eclectic Gallery**- Gig Harbour, WA & **Circle Craft Gallery**, Vancouver, BC: "Spring Flowers" solo exhibition
- 1988 • **Olympic Arts Festival** - Calgary, AB: juried competition and exhibition as part of XV Olympic Winter Games "Totum Figure 1987"
- 1987 • **Robert Held Art Glass** - Vancouver, BC: gala opening of new Vancouver studio hosted by **The Right Honourable Maureen McTeer, Governor General, for Commonwealth Heads of State**
- 1984 • **Alberta Achievement Award**, Excellence Category: for "Outstanding Achievement in Off-Hand Glassblowing"
- 1983 • "The Perfect Setting" national competition - goblets chosen to grace the table of **The Right Honourable Edward Screyer, Governor General at Rideau Hall** - Ottawa, ON
- 1969 - 1983 • Numerous solo and group exhibitions and awards throughout North America. Further details available upon request.





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Fact Sheet

- Canada's largest hot glass studio
- Started in Vancouver, BC in 1987 (formerly Skookum Art Glass, Calgary, AB – 1978-87)
- Employs 25 people including glassblowers, gallery staff and administration
- Clients include Rubaiyat, Seattle Art Museum, Guggenheim, Real Mother Goose Gallery, Quest Gallery, William Ashley, Gump's of San Francisco, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Circle Craft, Borsheim's Jewelry
- Sales in excess of \$2 million per annum (Cdn)
- "The Northern Lights" Commemorative Golden Jubilee bowl presented to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth and duplicate bowls presented to the Government of British Columbia and Nova Scotia
- Successful collectible line of Crucible vases still available in limited quantities
- Largest sellers include the California Poppy line, the Art Nouveau line, the new Wildflower Meadow Collection and small Impressionist vases





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Press

Breakfast TV

September 21, 2006

“Live Eye” Tasha Chiu in Gallery/Studio with live demonstrations, interviews

Love It or Lose It

Episode #2024

“Five Alarm Design”

Western Standard

June 13, 2005 Arts West Section Bi-weekly Vol 2 No 6

“Heart of Glass” by Dina O’Meara

Business In Vancouver

June 24-30, 1997

“Local glass blower expands business”

Vancouver Sun

Monday, September 22, 1997

“Glass blower takes art from hobby to big business” by Jenny Lee Sun Business Reporter

Glass Gazette

Spring 1995

“Robert Held: Looking Back, Looking Forward” by Paula Gustafson

This Country Canada

Spring/Summer 1995

“Playing With Fire” by Peter Meggs

West Ender

January 26, 1995

“A Glass Act”

“Glass big business for longtime artist” by Tom Zillich

Canada Today/ d’aujourd’hui

Volume 15 No. 7 1984

“Old Wine and New Glasses”

Article on winning competition to design the crystal used to toast the Queen by The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauve at Rideau Hall

The Review

No.2 1982

“A Touch of Glass” by Gerald Levitch

“The Canadian glass movement owes a great deal to Robert Held,” says Janak Khendry of Toronto’s Glass Art Gallery, “because he was the first person to set up a studio.”





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Corporate Gifts

Reward your employees or favoured customers with a unique piece of art that incorporates your logo or vision. Few will forget your company when treasuring a collectible version of your mission. Clients include ReMax Realty, Simon Fraser University, The Morris Wosk Centre for Dialogue, The Vancouver Open Tennis Trophy, First United Methodist Church, Benjamin Moore, Price Waterhouse Coopers, CIBC, and BC Women's and Children's Hospital.

