

The American Glass Guild unites artists and scholars of stained glass

By Kathy Jordan

Nothing could have prepared us for the lockdowns, social distancing, and other challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic brought.

Despite these challenges, International Commission on Glass president Alicia Durán and her team persevered to gain unprecedented support for the International Year of Glass 2022, which the United Nations officially declared in May 2021.

The American Glass Guild (AGG) is one of the many glass entities who joined the global chorus to endorse IYOG. AGG is a voluntary organization comprised of craftspeople, artisans, artists, and scholars with great experience in their fields. AGG members give freely of their time, resources, and array of talents to help promote the crafts and arts that have given them so much individually and, quite often, have become their livelihood.

AGG offers access to accumulated technical, best practice, and historical knowledge that is unattainable anywhere else. Since 2006, the Guild's all-volunteer Board and Committee members have organized and presented educational conferences, seminars, and lectures to the glass community and to the public. We welcome and share the ideas and discoveries of novices with as much encouragement as we do for the most well-known artists and scholars. We open our conferences and literature to present and future architects, owners, and stewards of stained, leaded, and decorative glass so that they can make informed decisions when judging proposed materials and techniques.

The pandemic-driven rise of the virtual world allowed AGG to become a greater global educational organization. We expanded our offering of online forums, blogs, workshops, and educational programs to help increase knowledge of the stained and decorative glass industry throughout the world. New processes and techniques borrowed from other art fields have opened the range of artistic capabilities employed in modern and contemporary stained glass design and fabrication.

In recognition of the International Year of Glass, AGG will hold its 16th annual conference at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, from July 14–17 (Thursday through Sunday), with workshops on July 13 and 14. We are hosting national and international speakers who will explore the old and new applications of glass, the use of light in glass design, provide case studies, and push the limits of creativity while honoring the tradi-

tion of stained glass and the innovation of new techniques and technology.

With an epic location, AGG 2022 is shaping up to be an event for the books. The Corning Museum of Glass is the world's largest space dedicated to the display of contemporary art and design in glass. This interactive, educational, hands-on, and family friendly museum is also home to the largest collection of art glass in the world, from the work of early Mesopotamians to the beautiful stained glass windows of Louis Comfort Tiffany and Narcissus Quagliata.

For more information on AGG and the upcoming summer conference, please visit www.americanglassguild.org.

About the author

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AGG president Kathy Jordan paints a stained glass window.