

Glass Shards

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL AMERICAN GLASS CLUB

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National Liberty Museum: *Seeking Freedom*

The National Liberty Museum is proud to announce its upcoming exhibition: “*Seeking Freedom: Six Artists’ Journeys from Oppression to Freedom.*” The exhibition will open on June 28, in concert with Welcome America, and continues through October 7, 2012. More than two dozen sculptural works in glass from six artists who fled Communist homelands will be featured, alongside the stories of their escapes and quotes from the artists on how their lives are different in America. There is no additional charge to view this exhibit and all works are available for purchase.

Participating artists include Latchezar Boyadjiev (Bulgaria/Czechoslovakia), Jose Chardiet (Cuba), Janusz Walentynowicz (Poland), Martin Rosol (Czechoslovakia), Binh Pho (Vietnam) and Pavel Novak (Czechoslovakia). Between 1960 and 1990, each of these men left their homes and in some cases even their families, for the promise of a better life in non-communist countries. Bribed border guards, midnight sails on homemade boats, refugee and re-education camps are but a few of the dramatic elements in the inspiring stories behind their journeys. All are now here in the United States and are established artists contributing to the collective artistic culture of their new homeland. Many of the artworks

featured will reference struggle, journey, transition – even joy; some of these references will be forceful and obvious, others quieter and more introspective.



Flight by Latchezar Boyadjiev

Glass is often derided as merely pretty or decorative. This exhibition combats that notion by including serious, sculptural work with narrative and content, particularly that of Janusz Walentynowicz, whose “Chain” and “Prisoner” pieces are powerful testaments to his life “before” and “after” his escape. Jose Chardiet’s work speaks directly to his family’s escape from

Cuba by boat, the hanging “hobo bag” referencing the need to leave possessions behind. Binh Pho’s works are adorned with imagery like butterflies, dragonflies and peacock feathers, which are powerful symbols in Vietnamese tradition. These elements, contrasted with outlines of city skylines, help trace the artist’s journey from his homeland to America.

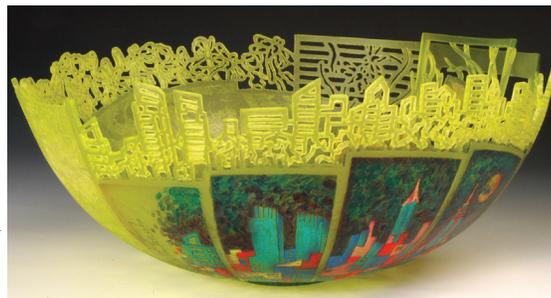
Notably, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the development of the

Contemporary Studio Glass Movement in America. To celebrate this milestone, more than 160 glass demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions will take place in museums and other venues across the United States throughout the year. The National Liberty Museum’s *Seeking Freedom* exhibition ties into this nationwide effort by tracing each of these artists’ “glass lineage,” from those who influenced them to create their art to younger artists who in turn have been influenced by these six.

There will also be a FREE-to-the-Public Opening Event for this exhibition on Thursday, June 28 from 5:30-8pm. For reservations, please call 215-925-2800, ext. 0. This exhibition of glass art is in keeping with the primary art form featured at the National Liberty Museum, which displays glass art throughout its eight galleries to make the point that freedom is fragile. It also reflects the Museum’s focus on “Heroism,” which is depicted in exhibits honoring 2,000 people from all walks of life who made a difference

in the lives of others.

The National Liberty Museum is located in historic Philadelphia at 321 Chestnut St. For information on the



Gatesless Dream by Binh Pho

Museum, contact Sherry Hawk at (215) 925-2800, ext. 105 or shawk@libertymuseum.org or visit www.libertymuseum.org