





BETWEEN SEEING & KNOWING ANNA BOOTHE & NANCY COHEN

September 5 – October 12, 2013

Between Seeing & Knowing, 2012, Glass, 10' x 26' x 1.5'

The work in this exhibition was made during a Collaborative Residency at The Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass in 2012

Accola Griefen, 547 West 27th Street #634, New York, New York 10001

Anna Boothe and Nancy Cohen's "Between Seeing and Knowing" – The Power of Thangka

Intriqued by 14th-19th century Tibetan paintings, Anna

Boothe and Nancy Cohen launched this project with the challenge of understanding the genre and converting it from a framed flat scroll to a 3D installation. Like the thangka painters, they infused their work with iconography, color combinations, and ethereal proportions. Traditionally, thangka imagery deferred to "rules" established by various Buddhist denominations, geographical regions, and creative styles. Boothe and Cohen took this a step further. They overlapped their individual sensibilities (literal vs. abstracted) to impart visual richness to their collaboration. By creating kiln-cast, slumped, fused, blown, hot-sculpted, and sand-cast pieces, they interpreted their imagery in glass, a media that heightens the metaphoric power of the work. Glass, as we realize, can be reduced to the thinness of a molecule, or sculpted into a profile that bends light. It also engages one's notions of fragility, strength, utility, and beauty.

Just as the master Buddhist artists did when generating their thangka, Boothe and Cohen's work expresses their insight and collective experience. Artists, like scientists or theologians, have a profound need to understand particular aspects of life. When they are gifted, their work helps us, as viewers, to discover something new about our own world. When they are enlightened, they help illuminate a worldview that may be new and profound for us — it is, after all, their job to help us bridge the intellectual waters between seeing and knowing.

Susan M. Rossi-Wilcox

(former) Administrator for the Glass Flowers Collection & Curatorial Associate, Harvard University Botanical Museum





















Anna Boothe earned a BFA in sculpture from Rhode Island School of Design and a MFA in glass from Tyler School of Art, where she was a Glass Program faculty member for 16 years. From 2004-2007 she coordinated and helped to institute the Glass Art Program at Salem Community College (NJ). Boothe has been



a visiting artist and instructor at numerous schools including RIT, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of the Arts, RISD, and Aichi University in Japan, as well as at schools in Belgium, Switzerland and Turkey. Her glass sculpture and decorative works have been shown at the Tittot Glass Art Museum (Taiwan), the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum and the Museum of American Glass and are included in the collections of the Corning Museum of Glass and the Tacoma Museum of Art. An eight-year member of the Glass Art Society Board of Directors, she served as President of the organization from 2004-2006. Anna Boothe is the Director of Glass at the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia.



Nancy Cohen has an MFA from Columbia University and a BFA from RIT. Recent projects include installations in Karmiel, Israel; the CODA Museum (Holland); the Katonah Museum of Art (NY) and a collaboration with environmentalists based on the Mullica River for the Noyes Museum of Art (NJ). Cohen has been

awarded a Pollack Krasner Grant and Fellowships in Sculpture and Works on Paper from the NJ State Council on the Arts. In 2011 Cohen was awarded a Pilchuck Glass School Residency. Previous residencies include The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and Dieu Donné, Her work is in the permanent collections of the NJ State Museum, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Museum, Montclair Art Museum, Weatherspoon Art Gallery & Yale University Art Museum among others. Recent exhibits include a solo show at the Hunterdon Art Museum (NJ); a permanent installation at the Health Sciences Library, Howard University (Washington DC) and inclusion in *Shattered: Contemporary Sculpture in Glass* at Frederik Meijer Sculpture Garden (Grand Rapids, MI). Nancy Cohen is represented by Accola Griefen Gallery.



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