

Toots Zynsky

Born: Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., March 25, 1951
B.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, R.I., U.S.A., 1973

Education

1979
Rhode Island School of Design, Special Student Advanced Glass Program (Fall Semester)

1973
Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, Washington, Independent degree project video/glass/sculpture (August)

1973
B.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island

1971
Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, Washington, Glassblowing Workshop (June through August)

1970
Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deere Isle, Maine, Glassblowing Workshop (August)

Honors

2017 James Renwick Alliance Masters of the Medium Award

2015 Visionary Award, Smithsonian & Smithsonian Women's Committee

2013 Glass in Venice Award, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and the Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia

2013
Women's Center of Rhode Island Annual Women of Excellence Award

2009
American Craft Council College of Fellows

2006
Rhode Island Pell Award for Excellence in the Arts

1999
"Innovation in a Glassworking Technique", UrbanGlass Annual Award, U.S.A.

1997
Die Bayerische Staatsregierung, Munich, Germany
The Bavarian State Government prize

1988
Rakow Commission, Corning Museum of Glass, U.S.A.

1986
National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowship, U.S.A.

1984
Research Grant, Stichting Klankschap (Foundation), Amsterdam, the Netherlands, Music recording and research, Ghana (1984-1985)

1982
National Endowment for the Arts, Emerging Visual Artist Fellowship
Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, Washington, Artist-in-Residence (August)

1981-82
New York State Council on the Arts, Artist-in-Residence Grant in conjunction with the New York Experimental Glass Workshop

Guest Lecturer/Visiting Artist

2017
"Meet the Masters of the Media"
Visarts in Rockville, Maryland
<https://jra.org/scw-masters-lecture>
(James Renwick Alliance 2017 Masters of the Medium Award)

2015
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia (September 2015)
Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA (September 2015)
The Smithsonian Craft Show (April 2015), guest speaker, Washington, DC
Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Hooks Epstein Gallery, Houston, Texas

2014
Habatat Galleries, West Palm Beach Florida

2013
Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design, lecture and Demo
National American Glass Club, in collaboration with The New Bedford Museum of Glass
Ohio State University, Cleveland, Ohio, Visiting artist and lecturer

2012
SOFA Chicago, Pioneers of American Studio Glass, Part Two panel discussion
Corning Museum of Glass "Celebrating 50 Years of American Studio Glass" seminar . The Double X Factor by Toots Zynsky
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC
Glass Art Society 2012 Conference, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo OH, History Panel Bill Warmus
Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA
2010
Harvard University, visiting lecturer
SOFA WEST, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Guest Lecture Series: Artist Mentor Discussion: Toots Zynsky and Harue Shimomoto

2009
SOFA WEST, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Guest Lecture Series: Open Doors
Nantucket Athenaeum, Nantucket, MA Guest Lecture Series

2008
Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design Tuesday Talks Lecture Series
Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Living Glass History Project, in-studio live webcam video conference guest lecturer/interactive interview ("virtual" visiting artist educational program pilot course).

2006
Toots Zynsky lecture and workshop, Fundacion Centro Nacional del Vidrio, La Granja de San Ildefonso, Segovia, Spain

2005
Notojima Glass Art Museum, Notojima-machi, Japan, Toots Zynsky Lecture and Workshop
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer
College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI, U.S.A., Guest Lecturer

2004
Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, N.Y, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer
Sarutahiko Jinjya Shoha Museum, Ise, Japan
Corning Museum Of Glass, Corning, N.Y, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer
UrbanGlass, Brooklyn, N.Y, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer and demonstration

2003
Toots Zynsky Seminar, special glass making techniques workshop and lecture, Kanaz Forest of Creation, Fukui, Japan
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL, USA, Guest Lecturer

2002
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, Guest Lecturer

2000
American Craft Museum, New York, NY, USA, Guest Lecturer

1999
Koganezaki Glass Museum, Kamogun, Japan, Guest Lecturer
Museo del Vidrio, Monterrey, Mexico, Guest Lecturer

1998
Delaware Museum of Art, USA, Guest Lecturer

1997
Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI, U.S.A., Guest Lecturer
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer

1996
Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Guest Instructor Glass Program, Second Semester

1995
Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, Washington DC, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer

1994
Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, Washington, U.S.A., Guest Lecturer

1992
Glass Art Society 22nd Annual Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, Guest Lecturer
Lecture read by Jean Luc Ollivié of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

1990
Zürich, Switzerland, Guest Lecturer

1988
28th Seminar on Glass, the Corning Museum of Glass, NY, U.S.A, Guest Lecturer
Yamaha Corporation, Tokyo, Japan, Guest Lecturer

1987
External Examiner, West Surrey College of Art, Farnham, England
Glass Program, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, Guest Lecturer

1986
External Examiner, West Surrey College of Art, Farnham, England

1985
Cincinnati Art Center, Cincinnati, OH
B.A.G. Conference, West Surrey College of Art, Farnham, UK, Guest Lecturer

1984
G.A.S. Conference, Corning, NY, Guest Lecturer
UCLA, Artist-in-Residence, Los Angeles, CA

1983
Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Guest Lecturer
"The Fine Art of Private Commissions", Dimock Gallery, George Washington University, Washington, DC, Guest Panelist

1982
"Contemporary Glass", Art History Program, New York University, New York, NY, Guest Lecturer
Continuing Education Program Lecture, "Contemporary Glass", Scarsdale, NY
Glass Program, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, Guest Lecturer

1981
"Alternative Education Programs in Glass Arts", Glass Art Society
Conference, Seattle, WA, Guest Panelist
Video Performance, Collaboration with Buster Simpson, Pratt Fine Art
Center, Seattle, WA
Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, WA, Visiting Artist

1979
Glassblowing Workshop, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

1975
"Studio Glass Movement in the U.S.", Williams College, Williamstown, MA. Guest Lecturer

Related Professional Experience

2016
Residency: Corning Specialty Glass Residency, Corning Museum of Glass, Sullivan Park Science and Technology Center, Corning, NY, USA

2013
Residency: Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Vittore Branca International Center for the Study of Italian Culture, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy (June 2013)

2010
Residency: Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Vittore Branca International Center for the Study of Italian Culture, Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, Italy (October to November 2010)
Advisory Committee AIDA/Association of Israel's Decorative Arts, New York, NY, USA

2009-2012
Board of Trustees Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI USA

2004-present
Board of Governors Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence, RI USA
PASA (Providence After School Alliance), Providence, RI, USA

2002-present
Advisory Board, Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, Ebeltoft, Denmark
Board of Trustees, Festival Ballet Providence, RI, USA
Advisory Board, Urban Glass, Brooklyn, NY, USA

2001-2
Designs and produces ten torches for the relay at the Paralympics opening ceremonies in Salt Lake City, Utah

1991-92
Designs and executes series of limited edition pieces for E.O.S. Murano, Italy

1984-85
Ghana, 6 months special research project, to record and research the living music of Ghana in collaboration with the Ghanaian Ministry of Culture, the Institute of African Studies, Legon, Ghana and the Klankschap Foundation, Holland

1984
Invited by VENINI, SpA of Venice, Italy to design a special series of "unique" pieces to add to their line.
U.C.L.A., Artist-in-Residence, Visiting Critic, Los Angeles, CA
Pilchuck Glass Center, Instructor, Special Workshop in Fusing, Slumping, Pate-de-verre

1981-83
During this time the artist executed a variety of special projects in glass, including work for advertising firms, production companies, and designs for production.

1981-83
TEAM OF FIVE who reestablished and rebuilt the Second New York Experimental Glass Workshop, Department Head, Hot Glass Program and established alliance with Parsons School of Design/The New School Faculty, Crafts Program

1982
Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deere Isle, Maine, Instructor Hot Glass Workshop (July)

1980-81
New York Experimental Glass Workshop, Assistant Director

1980
Pilchuck Glass Center, assisted Dan Dailey, Hot Glass Workshop

1971-73
Assisted Dale Chihuly in the founding and establishment of the Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, Washington, U.S.A.

Positions

1983-present
Toots Zynsky (studio), Inc., President and Artist (creator of unique works of art)

1981-1982
Parsons School of Design/The New School, New York, NY, USA Part-time faculty

1980-1983
New York Experimental Glass Workshop (Now UrbanGlass, Brooklyn, NY)
Assistant Director and Head of Educational Program and Hot Glass Facility