

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

"Engineering New Art Forms"
2017 Page Hazlegrove Lecture in Glass Art
The MIT Glass Lab ,
Massachusetts Insitute of Technology, Cambridge MA

"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 Atheneum, 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
Pilchuck Glass Center, Stanwood, WA, Visiting Artist

Guest Lecturer/Visiting Artist (continued)

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 Olivie 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

Guest Lecturer/Visiting Artist (continued)

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

Related Professional Experience (continued)

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