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Press release / European Glass Context 2020

Bornholm Biennale increases sustainable focus

In September during the 8th edition of Bornholms Biennials for contemporary European Glass and Ceramics, the focus is on glass and sustainability. The event, officially called the European Glass Context, alternates ceramics and glass every two years. This year, the focus is on glass when the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design Bornholm (KADK) unfolds the Biennale with two main exhibitions at Bornholm Art Museum and Grønbechs Gård, where about 60 European artists show experimental, sustainable and political works.

Since the start in 2006, the biennale has grown into a pervasive event throughout the island of Bornholm, where a diverse palette of adjoining exhibitions, talks and events pop-up in museums, galleries and shops on the occasion of the biennale.

The four themes of the Glass Biennale

Four underlying categories will shape the exhibitions. Artworks can be either based on a site-specific context, relate to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, act politically or activist, or can be masterpieces in glass. The four themes will mix in the exhibition, which is divided into two exhibition venues: Grønbechs Gård and Bornholm Art Museum. By setting a contemporary framework for the exhibitions, we want to put together two exhibitions that will largely reflect significant and new works, as well as the innovative, activist, experimental and sustainable trends in European glass. The participating artists are either invited to participate or have applied for participation through an Open Call.

"European Glass Context 2020 stems from a vision from Bornholm's cultural and educational institutions to use the cultural heritage of Bornholm in the production of glass and ceramics as the starting point for a significant and international event that marks Bornholm as "Makers Island" and the center of crafts and contemporary glass and ceramics in Europe", says Susanne Jøker Johnsen, Head of Exhibitions at KADK.

World-class crafts

With Bornholm's recognition and title as a World Craft Region, the island is one of the only ones in Europe with the highest concentration of artisans per square kilometer. Bornholm was given the title in 2018, and on the occasion of European Glass Context there will be further attention on crafts on Bornholm during the Biennale period. In other words, European Glass Context 2020 is an opportunity to gain a broad insight into the contemporary and current European glass scene on an island that has already charmed foodies and outdoor aficionados from all over the world. Now Bornholm as a brand and powerhouse for local crafts, has led to the creation of the brand Makers Island, an association of local institutions and businesses.



Det Kongelige Danske Kunstakademis Skoler
for Arkitektur, Design og Konservering
Designskolen

Facts:

- Bornholms Biennials for contemporary European Glass and Ceramics started in 2006 with participants from more than 31 European countries.
- European Glass Context 2020 marks the European glass scene through exhibitions, lectures, debate and educational activities and positions Bornholm as a European hub for glass artists, craftsmen, critics, museum professionals and other professionals.
- For each Biennale, a professional curator group will select the participants in the exhibitions.
- A 3-person jury will select two prize winners who will receive respectively € 5,000 /€ 10,000.
- The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture, Design and Conservation/KADK with its crafts department for glass and ceramics on Bornholm is artistically, economically and legally responsible for the Biennale in cooperation with the leading Bornholm cultural institutions, Bornholms Art Museum and Grønbechs Gård, as well as a number of local artisans and cultural institutions.
- The Biennale works closely with the World Craft Region Secretariat at Bornholm Regional Municipality.
- European Glass Context is supported by Bornholm Regional Municipality and a large number of private foundations.
- The Biennale takes place from September 12th to November 15th, 2020
- Download press material here: <http://www.europeanglasscontext.com/press>
- Website: <http://www.europeanglasscontext.com>
- Makers Island: <http://makersisland.bornholm.dk/en>

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