

# glass

The UrbanGlass Art Quarterly

**Committed to the Cutting Edge:  
Norway's S12**

**Made in China:  
Two Artists and Academics**

**Why Artists Subvert the  
Beauty of Glass**

**UrbanGlass History:  
Renovation and Renewal**

**COVER**

**Matthew Szösz:  
Hypothetical Outcomes**



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ABOVE **Baptiste Debombourg**, *Raging Dreams*, 2017. Site-specific installation at S12. Dimensions variable.



LEFT An exterior shot of the S12 gallery.

consider glass their only medium. S12 attracts some of the best candidates through its reputation, competitive application pool, outreach, and research, but the collaboration with Pilchuck further establishes S12 as a leader in the field.

Beyond its artist-in-residence program, S12 hosts a number of exhibitions. It has sponsored solo exhibitions for established artists, such as Cuban artist Yoel Díaz Vázquez in 2009, Spanish artist Javier Pérez in 2013, and French artist Baptiste Debombourg in 2017, as well as a handful of group exhibitions. But one of S12's favorite, longest-running projects is the "Young and Loving" exhibition, which presents six emerging artists each year.

When reviewing the 10-year history of the selected participants, it would seem that this director/art advisor duo have a gift for spotting talent early in an artist's blossoming career. This project has been one of the staples of the organization from its

conception. They select 60 artists through referrals, scouring university web pages, this magazine, *New Glass Review*, and other sources. But what a challenge! Young artists are easily exposed to glass while also getting a rich and diverse education in art history, contemporary art, and studio practices. And they seem interested in looking at the material differently than in other time periods. This outlook, combined with the development of new technologies, has instigated a whirlwind of development, innovation, and profundity that, in part, is nurtured through S12.

A quick survey of these artists—Stine Bidstrup (Denmark), Hiromi Takizawa (Japan), Liesl Schubel (U.S.), Madisyn Zabel (Australia), and Riikka Haapasaari (Finland)—is extraordinary. And often when one compares the date of the exhibition and the artist's career now, it is obvious that S12 has gift for spotting talent early and supporting it. In 2010, Anna Mlasowsky was one such artist. Since