

For Immediate Release

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**Pratt Fine Arts Center Announces Study Abroad Program
In Czech Republic for Glass Sculptors from July 19 - 31, 2009**

This summer, Pratt Fine Arts Center is launching its first Study Abroad Program. In collaboration with the Kamenicky Senov School of Industrial Arts for Glass, Pratt has organized a two-week intensive program designed to teach students the technical, intellectual and artistic processes of traditional Czech moldmaking, kiln casting and coldworking -- three techniques often used in making art glass but lesser known than glassblowing. Kiln casting involves melting glass into a mold to create sculptural forms. Coldworking involves using tools and abrasives to cut or engrave glass.

As a major force in the Northwest Studio Glass Movement, Pratt strives to offer cutting-edge opportunities to emerging and established glass artists. Pratt has been one of the premier glass schools in the Northwest for over thirty years," said Executive Director Michelle Bufano. "It seemed natural for us to partner with the oldest European school dedicated to preparatory glass education."

Pat Bako, one of two studio assistants who will join the program this summer and Pratt's Glass Studio Manager, said, "Pratt's *Czech Glass Intensive* program is a unique opportunity for students to study with master Czech artists in the birth place of kiln-casting. Students will be able to take advantage of the school's well-equipped studios for glass and other mediums."

The Czech Glass Intensive program will include hands-on demonstrations, open studio time to practice moldmaking techniques, and day trips to regional glassmaking facilities and studios. A limited number of enrollment spaces remain.

Contact Pat Bako with questions at pbako@pratt.org, or, at 206.328.2200 x266.

What: Czech Glass Intensive
When: July 19 - 31, 2009
Where: Kamenicky Senov, Czech Republic

Since 1976, Pratt Fine Arts Center has offered art classes for everyone and workspace for artists in its equipment-rich facilities in Seattle's Central District. Pratt serves 3,400 students each year and more than 500 working artists use Pratt's affordable studios and equipment.

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