

For Immediate Release
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Pratt Fine Arts Center Presents *Italian Influence*
An Exhibition at Pratt Gallery at Tashiro Kaplan Studios

Pratt Fine Arts Center presents *Italian Influence*, the February exhibition at Pratt Gallery at Tashiro Kaplan Studios. Italian glassmaking techniques have a very strong influence on the studio glass movement in Seattle. This group show features work by artists who teach and rent studio space at Pratt and who have applied this influence to their own work.

The Pratt Gallery at Tashiro Kaplan Studios showcases the artwork of its instructors, students and renters, demonstrating the quality, strength and range of talent that is cultivated and made possible by programs offered at Pratt Fine Arts Center.

What: *Italian Influence: An Exhibition at Pratt Gallery*
Where: Pratt Gallery at Tashiro Kaplan Studios, 306 S Washington St, Suite 102
When: February 5 - 27, 2009
Opening: First Thursday, February 5, 6 - 8pm
Gallery Hours: Fridays and Saturdays, 12 - 5pm and by appointment

Artist Bios

Julie Bergen started blowing glass after a five year career as a professional flute maker in Boston. She has an IT degree from the University of Massachusetts and currently works as a graphic designer. She has been teaching glassblowing at Pratt for over a year and her favorite glass forms are goblets, genie bottles and sculpted shoes.

Josie Gluck earned her BA in Art From Union College in New York. She has studied glassblowing at the Appalachian Center for Craft, Haystack, Urban Glass and Pilchuck Glass School, where she has also been a staff member, volunteer, and teaching assistant. She teaches glassblowing classes at Pratt and currently lives in Seattle, where she designs and creates functional objects.

Chuck Lopez has been working with glass for over 17 years. He received a BA in Philosophy from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a MFA in glass from Alfred University in New York. A former student, staff member, and teaching assistant at Pilchuck Glass School, Chuck also works as Pratt's Glass Technician.

John Malarkey is a local glass artist who enjoys teaching the technical aspects of controlling and shaping glass using traditional Italian techniques. John has attended the Pilchuck Glass School, Pratt Fine Arts Center and has studied and worked with numerous glass artists in Seattle.

Eric Mead has studied and worked with various glassblowers in Sweden, Tennessee, New York, and Seattle for over 10 years. He teaches and exhibits nationally, and has been involved with Pratt for over 8 years. He has a background in computers and linguistics.

Kait Rhoads received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1993 and her MFA from Alfred University in 2001. She has been awarded Pilchuck scholarships and was an emerging artist in residence at Pilchuck Glass School and Pratt Fine Arts Center. She received a fellowship at the Creative Glass Center of America and a Fulbright grant to study glass design in Murano. She creates sculpture as well as vessels made with traditional Italian techniques.

Boyd Sugiki started working with glass at Punahou High School in Honolulu, Hawaii in 1986. He received a BFA in glass from California College of Arts and Crafts in 1991 and a MFA in glass from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1996. He has taught at Pilchuck Glass School, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Haystack, Penland and in Japan and Turkey.

David Williams has been blowing glass since 1996, when he started at the Seattle Glassblowing Studio. In 1999, he began studying at Pratt Fine Arts Center, taking classes from Kait Rhoads, Alison Chism, Sabrina Knowles and Jenny Pohlman. In 2004, he attended Pilchuck Glass School, studying with Boyd Sugiki.

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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