



**Dovecot**  
**Gallery**



Bertil Vallien, photo credit: Fergus Mather

Press Release 10/06/16

**NORTH LANDS CREATIVE GLASS**

**A Portrait at 20**

- Curated by Amanda Game
- Charts North Lands' 20 years of experimentation with glass through new commissions, works by past masters and archival materials
- Includes works by Bertil Vallien, Einar and Jamex de la Torre and Paul J Stankard
- 10 master glassmakers associated with North Lands in the past 10 years: Maria Bang Espersen, Alison Kinnaird, Tobias Mohl, Magdalene Odundo, David Reekie, Colin Reid, Richard Slee, Petr Stanicky, Emma Woffenden, and Udo Zembok
- New commissions from Geoffrey Mann, Keiko Mukaide and a new collaboration between the North Lands Artistic Director Emma Woffenden, filmmaker Ruth MacLennan and choreographer Robbie Syngé
- Conference in partnership with Edinburgh College of Art from 16 – 18 September 2016, entitled *A Luddite Convention: Making, Technology and Nature*

**Exhibition open:** 16 September - 29 October 2016

**Opening event:** Friday 16 September 6-8pm

**Exhibition open to the public (free admission):** Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm

**Exhibition webpage:** <http://ow.ly/VNja3015tAo> **Social media:** #northlands20

**\*PRESS PREVIEW /PHOTOCALL: FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2016 9.30-10.30am DOVECOT GALLERY\***

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**/// International glass centre in remote Scottish village celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> birthday with major exhibition.**

This autumn, a major exhibition at Dovecot Gallery will tell the story of North Lands Creative Glass as it celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. Opening on 16 September, *North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20* will chart the centre's 20 years of experimentation with glass through new commissions, works by past masters and archival materials.

Founded by a team led by glass specialist Dan Klein, North Lands is one of the world's most prestigious centres for the study and development of glass as an art form and attracts artists internationally. Set in a remote 18<sup>th</sup> century former fishing village in Caithness on the North East coast of Scotland, the centre's ethos is to encourage and support collaboration between artists

working across different media to extend the possibilities in the creative use of glass. Since its inception, it has worked with sculptors including Richard Wentworth, David Nash, Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon and Alison Wilding.

Curated by Amanda Game, *North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20* will begin with a portrait of the people, place and work of North Lands: archival films, images, working notes and objects from the centre's collection – including works by Bertil Vallien, Einar and Jamex de la Torre and Paul J Stankard - will explore its rich history.

The main section of the exhibition will present portraits of 10 master glassmakers associated with North Lands in the past 10 years: Maria Bang Espersen, Alison Kinnaird, Tobias Mohl, Magdalene Odundo, David Reekie, Colin Reid, Richard Slee, Petr Stanicky, Emma Woffenden, and Udo Zembok. The masters section will include works in glass, drawings and film, illustrating different approaches to glass, both technically and conceptually, and will highlight artists across generations. The exhibition will also reflect on a series of new commissions from Geoffrey Mann, Keiko Mukaide and a new collaboration between the North Lands Artistic Director Emma Woffenden, filmmaker Ruth Maclennan and choreographer Robbie Syngé. These commissions have been curated by Amanda Game and Susanna Beaumont and will be developed throughout the anniversary year.

North Lands has many strands, but at its heart is an annual programme of master classes and workshops curated by a different Artistic Director every three years, currently the London-based artist and designer Emma Woffenden. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of residencies and master classes includes workshops run by Colin Reid and the return of a popular former master class leader, Richard Wentworth.

North Lands Creative Glass runs an annual international conference in Lybster exploring expansive themes around glass. As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, the 2016 conference will be held in Edinburgh in partnership with Edinburgh College of Art from 16 – 18 September 2016, entitled *A Luddite Convention: Making, Technology and Nature*.

*North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20* is hosted with support from the Dovecot Foundation and Creative Scotland. Dovecot Gallery is working with all at North Lands to present this exhibition as part of its year-round programme designed in partnership with artists and cultural organisations, highlighting contemporary themes and cross-disciplinary practice. This collaborative approach is fundamental to the mission of the Dovecot Foundation, which was established to ensure the continuation of a century-long heritage of tapestry and rug making by Dovecot Tapestry Studio together with internationally renowned artists and designers.

*North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20* will be at Dovecot Gallery, Edinburgh from 16 September to 29 October 2016.

<http://www.northlandsglass.com>

**ENDS ///**

**Notes to Editors:**

*North Lands Creative Glass: A Portrait at 20* is presented at Dovecot Gallery with support from Dovecot Foundation, Creative Scotland, Bullseye Glass, Turtleton Charitable Trust and Phebe Miller Olcay in memory of her husband John Olcay.

**About Amanda Game:**

Amanda Game is an established curator in the field of contemporary applied art, with over thirty years experience of both generating and project managing exhibitions in a range of commercial, museum and non profit spaces in Scotland and the wider UK. A long standing career as Director, Crafts at the Scottish Gallery Edinburgh ([www.scottish-gallery.co.uk](http://www.scottish-gallery.co.uk)) (1986 – 2007) has been followed by an active role as an independent curator and producer working with organisations such as the Jerwood Charitable Foundation; Dovecot Foundation; IC:Innovative Craft; Contemporary Applied Arts; Creative Scotland; National Museums, Scotland; Victoria; Albert Museum; Ruthin Craft Centre; Crafts Council and mima, Middlesbrough. In 2007 she also founded the Andrew Raven Trust [www.andrewraventrust.org.uk](http://www.andrewraventrust.org.uk) to support and develop critical thinking around the challenges of sustainable rural development in Scotland.

This experience has stimulated a deep engagement with, and respect for, the high level of creative and critical thinking present in a culture of craft and has led her to undertake part time Research at the Royal College of Art to investigate ways in which a contemporary culture of craft, its artists and their objects, can be made more fully articulate in formal museum spaces in the UK.

**About North Lands:**

North Lands is based in Caithness on the North East Coast of Scotland, and is one of the world's most prestigious centres for the study and development of glass as an artform, providing excellent facilities, opportunities and inspiration to artists working with glass from all over the world.

North Lands run a programme of activities including master classes and symposia with renowned artists, glass skills classes, artist residencies, beginner workshops and community programmes. Their ethos is to encourage and support collaboration and experimentation between artists working across different media to extend the possibilities in the creative use of glass. The annual North Lands international conference explores expansive themes around glass, contemporary art and craft, historical and social influence and local culture in a unique Highland setting.

Recognising increasing concern about the environmental impact and sustainability of using glass as a form of artistic expression, North Lands Creative Glass is committed to embedding environmentally considerate behaviour across the whole organisation and to becoming a leader in long-term sustainable thinking.

The [North Lands Creative Glass Collection](#) of Contemporary Glass comprises around 200 pieces by some of the world's most highly regarded artists working with glass. The Collection has been acquired from masters and artists-in-residence over 18 years, and in many cases objects represent a seminal point in the artist's career, forming a fascinating record of recent developments in contemporary glass practice.

**For press information and further images: Lizzie Cowan, Marketing Coordinator**

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**About Dovecot Studios:**

Dovecot Studios was founded in 1912 by the Marquess of Bute, a patron of the arts. The first weavers at Dovecot, Gordon Berry and John Glassbrook, came from the renowned William Morris Studios at Merton Abbey in Wimbledon. Dovecot's first commission was for a series of monumental tapestries for the Marquess' own home at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute.

In 1946, the Studios were incorporated as The Edinburgh Tapestry Company. Dovecot soon became established as a leading contemporary fine art tapestry studio, with works commissioned for major public, corporate and academic institutions worldwide. As a key player in the renaissance of tapestry in the 20th century, Dovecot's Master Weavers worked with many leading contemporary artists including David Hockney, Henry Moore, Frank Stella and RB Kitaj.

Dovecot's Master Weavers continue to work to commission, producing tapestry and tufted rugs for private and public collectors. Major tapestry projects include Alison Watt's *Butterfly* for Scottish Opera's new Theatre Royal, Peter Saville's *Monarch of the Glen* and Magne Furuholmen's *Glass Onion*. Working with artists such as Linder, Than Clark and Garry Fabian Miller on recent rug commissions have further tested the boundaries of creativity and play with what the process allows.

**Dovecot Gallery**

Dovecot Gallery is a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft and design built around a leading international tapestry studio. Occupying an extraordinary building in the heart of Edinburgh, the Gallery works to programme, commission and produce exhibitions and events for audiences and clients who share Dovecot's passion for making and the creative arts.

**Dovecot Tapestry Studio**

Dovecot Tapestry Studio is a world-renowned producer of hand-woven tapestry and gun-tufted rugs. Continuing a century-long heritage of making and collaboration with leading international contemporary artists, the Studio weavers are dedicated to producing extraordinary and engaging works of art by commission from private and public collectors from across the globe.

**Dovecot Foundation**

Dovecot Foundation exists to champion Dovecot Tapestry Studio and its place in the world of contemporary art, design and making. The Foundation puts the Studio at the heart of this mission in supporting the Dovecot Apprenticeship Programme, collaborations with leading artists from around the world and development of cultural and educational partnerships. Ultimately, the Foundation seeks to bring the innovative work of contemporary artists and makers to a wider audience.