

2025.07.04

LIVES

開館10周年記念 富山市ガラス美術館所蔵品選
10th Anniversary Exhibition: Lives
Masterpieces from the Toyama Glass Art Museum Collection

Venue: Toyama Glass Art Museum Floors 2-3, Exhibition Rooms 1-3

Period: Friday, July 18, 2025 – Monday, October 13, 2025

Hours: Sun.-Thu.9:30-18:00 (admission until 17:30)

Fri.-Sat. 9:30-20:00 (admission until 19:30)

Closed: First and Third Wednesdays (except September 3), September 10, 2025

Organized by Toyama Glass Art Museum

With the officially supported by THE KITANIPPON SHIMBUN, THE TOYAMA SHIMBUN,
Japan Broadcasting Corporation Toyama Station, Kitanihon Broadcasting Co., Ltd.,
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Admission: General Public:1200 yen (1000 yen)/

University and College Students 1000 yen (800 yen)

*High school students and younger: free

*() for group of 20 or more.

*The ticket also gives admission to the Permanent Exhibition.



Utenriksdepartementet

**Norwegian
Crafts**

Contact

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About the exhibition

This exhibition focuses on around 50 works by 21 artists, from the approximately 600 items in the Toyama Glass Art Museum collection, introducing the “lives” expressed in each work.

Life, live and words of similar ilk have multiple meanings, encompassing everything from the force permeating all living things, to those same living things themselves, day-to-day existence, and bodies/minds in motion. They refer to the existence and condition of those of us alive right now, while simultaneously serving as vast themes that have engaged countless artists since antiquity.

Note also that 2025 marks ten years since the opening of the Toyama Glass Art Museum. The year 2015 seems at once remote, and like yesterday, and though much of that time has been spent going about our uneventful day-to-day lives, it has also been characterized by encounters with major disasters such as a global pandemic and earthquakes, and the outbreak of new wars. The environment and situation around us have changed with breathtaking speed, and still we continue to be confronted by new events and watershed moments that raise questions about the state of “life,” and its importance.

We hope that the expressions of life and lives seen in the works here, their delicate yet powerful forms, and their visual and auditory shaking and stirring of emotion and memory, will encourage viewers to cast a fresh eye over both themselves and the familiar things around them, and join each other in musing on, and sharing, ways to live in and navigate unsettling times.

Artists

Kate Baker, Howard Ben Tré, Æsa Björk, Shige Fujishiro, Fujita Kyohei, Gonjo Mafune, Dafna Kaffeman, Marta Klonowska, Kosogawa Runa, Stanislav Libenský & Jaroslava Brychtová, Harvey K. Littleton, Mária Lugossy, Alena Matějka, Javier Pérez, Kirstie Rea, Sasaki Rui, Ivana Šrámková, Lino Tagliapietra, Takahashi Yoshihik, Dalia Truskaitė, Ann Wolff

You can see the outline of this exhibition in multiple languages by scanning the QR code. It supports Japanese, English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, French, German and Italian.



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Exhibition Contents

I Vitality of life

The sight of glass heated to high temperature in the kiln and dissolving into red-hot fluidity evokes the very vitality of life, mesmerizing many down the ages. The technique of blowing air into molten glass to mold it has moreover been frequently likened to a reverent ritual that breathes life into the glass. Glass artists may use all the tools and techniques at their disposal to control their material, but sometimes cannot but give in to the motion of the glass itself, attempting to capture as form its most beautiful moment, in the short interlude before it cools and hardens.

This section presents the work of three artists who have contributed to the evolution of contemporary glass, employing primarily blown-glass techniques in explorations of formative expression. In the vibrant, powerful artistry of their works may be discerned the vitality of life: the physical motion and rhythms of the artist handling the glass, the forms and aspects that emerge from dialogue with the glass, and the energy surrounding the workplace where it all happens.



- 1 Harvey K. LITTLETON, *Yellow Crown II*, 1984,
Photo: SAIKI Taku
- 2 Lino TAGLIAPIETRA, *Africa*, 2014,
Photo: SUEMASA Mareo

II Inner life

Glass is a hard, high-strength material, but also fragile and easily broken; so delicate that even a single small scratch can cause it to crack. And while transmitting light, it can also reflect and absorb it. These opposing qualities of glass echo the essential ambiguity of human beings; their strength and weakness, beauty and ugliness, outward expressions and inner emotions.

This section features around 20 works on themes such as secret inner emotions, and shifts of the heart. The artists here have taken the complexity and diversity of human nature and feelings and attempted to render them visually, through glass, as human figures or body parts, or as animals. The emotions displayed in their works, the psychological states projected by movements of the body or facial expression, are suffused with a seductive, soul-stirring force.

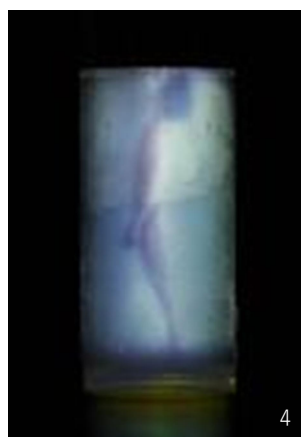
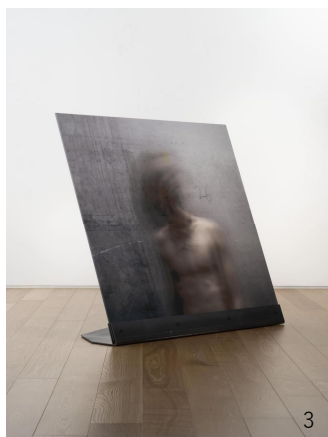
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3 Kate BAKER, *Within Matter #7*, 2020,
Photo: SUEMASA Mareo

4 Aesa BJÖRK, *Shield II*, 2018, Photo: OKAMURA Kichiro
Sound: Tinna Thorsteinsdóttir
Technical assistance: Josh Kopel and Nanna Einarsdóttir

III Memories of life

Memories of childhood experiences, games that were once obsessions, things we happened to see and hear during daily life, can return unexpectedly, along with various emotions. Such memories, accompanied by our senses of sight, sound and smell, are both past experiences, and vital elements of who we are now.

“Memories of life” focuses on nine works based on items found in nature and everyday living such as plants, insects, clothing, and origami. Reflecting the personal experiences of their makers, they may be manifestations of intensely private memories, but the transparency of the glass—which lends a haziness to their existence—and the familiar motifs they express, evoke the viewer’s own memories, feelings of nostalgia, and empathy.



5 SASAKI Rui, *Subtle Intimacy*, 2019, Photo: OKAMURA Kichiro

6 GONJO Mafune, *Crumbs from a labyrinth*, 2019, Photo: SUEMASA Mareo

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IV Life most precious

The exploration of life, death and lives has been a fundamental theme across academic disciplines including art since antiquity. To be born, live, then die is indeed the inescapable destiny of all living things, and while birth is a cause for celebration, the experiences and doubts of our lives, and fear and unease around the unknowability of death, encourage us to reflect upon and question our own existence, drive a yearning for salvation and permanence, and bring a host of emotions to the fore. This section introduces works by six artists who address themes that include the beginnings of life, the ephemeral nature of passing time, the repose of souls, and the cycle of life, through colors and forms that evoke visions of life and death, and metaphorical motifs. These striking offerings, unfolding across the entire gallery space, transcend the realm of individual creativity and thought to present to us universal ways of being alive, and the mysterious nature of life.



7 Stanislav LIBENSKÝ & Jaroslava BRYCHTOVÁ, *Stooping / Leaning*, 2000, Photo: SAIKI Taku

8 Howard BEN TRÉ, *Large Basin*, 1999, Photo: SAIKI Taku

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About the museum



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With the grand vision of creating a ‘Glass Art City, Toyama’ Toyama Glass Art Museum opened in August 2015. Toyama Glass Art Museum was built in TOYAMA KIRARI, a composite facility, which is also occupied by the Toyama City Public Library Main Building. As the Art Museum is located in the city centre of Toyama City, it not only serves as a hub of art and culture, but it also plays a role of generating new attraction for the city centre.

Kengo Kuma, a world- renowned architect, designed this building. The Exterior of the building resembles the ever-changing Mt. Tateyama, and was built with a combination of different materials, such as granite, glass, and aluminum. The interior, on the other hand, makes full use of louvers that use materials from Toyama Prefecture to create an atmosphere of warmth and openness.

The museum holds Permanent Exhibitions, such as the Collection Exhibition showcasing the contemporary glass artwork collected by Toyama City. In the murals of the display rooms and the library, there is the ‘Glass Art Passage’ that displays artwork from artists associated with Toyama.

On the 6th floor, there is the ‘Glass Art Garden’ that displays installations by the studio of the great master of contemporary glass artwork, Dale Chihuly. In this museum, a variety of art styles are introduced with a focus on contemporary glass artwork after the 1950s.

Access

[From Toyama Station]

○ 20-minute walk. ○ Take the tram (Shinai-densha) for Minami-Toyama-Eki-Mae. Get off at Nishicho. 1-minute walk. ○ Take the City Loop Line tram (Shinai-densha Kanjo-sen). Get off at Grand Plaza Mae. 2-minute walk. (Tram takes approx. 10 minutes from Toyama St. to Nishicho/Grand Plaza Mae.)

[From Toyama Airport]

○ Take Local Bus Toyama Airport Line (Toyama Kuko-sen) and get off at Sogawa. 4-minute walk.

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