**RUTH SHELLEY**

Taking her cue from her love of traveling, Ruth Shelley’s inspiration derives from her observation of colour, balance and tone of nature. Her gravity dropped vessels create an interplay of light, form and colour that is evocative of the natural world which surrounds us. The vessels take on their own personae and become artworks in their own right as glass sculptures. Shelley always observes how the colours and layers combine as a whole, and how light illuminates them. Shelley says: *‘My aim is to redirect attention back to the colours of nature in scenery and landscape’.*

The vessels are kiln-formed glass made by the ‘drop out’ method. Shelley cuts strips of glass and arranges them in complex layers and patterns which are fused together into a sheet. It is then suspended in a kiln on an open mould, heat is applied and gravity fluidly stretches the suspended glass to the floor of the kiln, which is then ground, polished and sandblasted into the finished vessel. Owing to the nature of the applications, Shelley’s vessels are one-offs. It is not possible to make two pieces identical.

**Born**  1961, Aberystwyth, Wales

**Training**

1979-80 Foundation Course, Art & Design. Dyfed College of Art, Carmarthen

1980-83 H.N.D. Woven Textiles. Dyfed College of Art, Carmarthen

2000-06 Swansea Metropolitan University, Swansea

2000 Fusing glass - Ann Rosendahl

2001 Advanced Fusing - Detlef Tanz

2002 Sandblasting - Detlef Tanz

2004 Integration of glass, metal and ceramic - Detlef Tanz

2006 Glass bonding and cold working - Detlef Tanz

2007 **Place and Identity:** Silvia Levenson Master class, with Jeremy Lepisto & Dena Pengas, Alastair Pilkington Studios, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster

2009 **Colour & Texture**: Kaffe Fassett & Steve Klein Master class, Alastair Pilkington Studios, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster

2013 **Colour Lab**: Nathan Sandberg Master class, Bullseye Resource Centre, Portland, Oregon, USA

2013 **Taking on Colour**: Michael Endo Masterclass, Bullseye Resource Centre, Portland, Oregon, USA

**Continuing professional development:**

2007 **Place and Identity:** Silvia Levenson Master class, with Jeremy Lepisto & Dena Pengas Alastair Pilkington Studios, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster

2009 **Colour & Texture**: Kaffe Fassett & Steve Klein Master class, Alastair Pilkington Studios, North Lands Creative Glass, Lybster

2013 **Colour Lab**: Nathan Sandberg Master class, Bullseye Resource Centre, Portland, Oregon, USA

2016 **A Luddite Convention:** North Lands Creative Glass - 20th Anniversary Conference - Making, Technology and Nature, Edinburgh,UK

2017 **Connections**: CGS Annual Conference - Glancing backwards, seeing the present, focusing on the future, Bristol UK

2018 **The Glass Path** - GAS Conference, Glass Art Society, Annual Conference, Murano, Italy

2020 **GAS Conference**, Glass Art Society, Annual Conference ,Online – should gave been in Sweden

**Awards:**

2007 Training Grant Award Arts Council of Wales

2008 Full Membership Society of Designer Craftsmen

2009 Training Grant Award Arts Council of Wales

2011 Project Grant Award Arts Council of Wales

2012 **Winner** of Best New Gift British Craft Trade Fair

2013 Training Grant Award Arts Council Wales

2015 **Winner** Glass Sellers Award British Glass Biennale

2017 Joint Runner up CGS exhibition International Festival of Glass

2017 **Winner** – People’s Prize CGS exhibition International Festival of Glass

2020 Stabilisation Grant Award Arts Council Wales

2021 Selected for Objects of Comfort Film National Museum Wales

**Masterclass – Teaching :**

**26 April- 29 April 2018**

**Experimenting with Colour Dropouts** - Glass Hub, Stowford Manor Farm, Wingfield, Wiltshire, BA14 9LH

**25 April- 28 April 2019**

**Experimenting with Colour Dropouts** - Glass Hub, Stowford Manor Farm, Wingfield, Wiltshire, BA14 9LH

8 October – 11 October 2020

**Experimenting with Colour Dropouts** - Glass Hub, Stowford Manor Farm, Wingfield, Wiltshire, BA14 9LH

26 April – 29 April 2022

**Experimenting with Colour Dropouts** - Glass Hub, Stowford Manor Farm, Wingfield, Wiltshire, BA14 9LH

**Exhibitions -** from 2013

2013

**MADE London:** One Marylebone, London (25/10)

**Exhibition with Gail Brodholt:** Cambridge Contemporary Art, Cambridge (01/11)

**Christmas Show:** Gallery at Ice, Windsor (21/11)

2014 **Summer Show:** Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Blythswood St, Glasgow (28/03)

**Everything in the garden is lovely:** The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Millbrook, Cornwall (11/4)

**The Contemporary Craft Festival:** Mill Marsh Park. Bovey Tracey, Devon (08/06)

**Summer Exhibition:** The Biscuit Factory, Stoddart St, Shieldfield, Newcastle upon Tyne (07/6)

**Telling Tales:** The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, Cornwall (14/8)

**Summer Exhibition:** Gallery Ten, First Floor, 23 Windsor Place, Cardiff (18/7)

**All I want for Christmas:** The Craft Centre and Design Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds (1/11)

**Christmas Exhibition:** Cambridge Contemporary Art, Cambridge (21/11)

**Christmas Exhibition:** “Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Blythswood St, Glasgow (21/11)

2015 **National Glass Centre**: “Liberty Way, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear (12/3)

**Standing on Ceremony:** The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, Cornwall (21/3)

**Glass Biennale 2015:** Ruskin Glass Centre & Arts Centre, Stourbridge, DY8 4HF (28/5)

**Summer Show**: The Makers Guild in Wales, Craft in the Bay,Cardiff (18/7)

**Bircham Gallery:** 14 Market Pl, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6BW (9/8)

**Essence 2015**: London Glassblowing: 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (7/8)

**Autumn Exhibition:** The Biscuit Factory, Stoddart St, Shieldfield, Newcastle upon Tyne (05/9)

**Handmade at Kew:**  with The Byre Gallery, Kew Gardens, London (8/10)

**MADE London:** One Marylebone, London (22/10)

**Breaking the Ice**: The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, Cornwall (21/11)

**Snowflakes**: Cotehele Gallery, National Trust Cotehele, Cornwall (2/11)

**Christmas Exhibition:** Bircham Gallery, 14 Market Pl, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6BW (7/11)

**Christmas Open House**: London Glassblowing: 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (19/11)

2016 **3D Showcase**: MOMA Machynlleth, The Tabernacle, Heol Penrallt, Machynlleth, SY20 8AJ (16/4)

**Spring Showcase**: The Strathearn Gallery, 32 West High street, Creiff, Perthshire, PH7 4DL (19/3)

**Cywrain**: Galeri Caernafon, Doc Voctoria, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1SQ (2/5)

**Ausstellung 75**: Galerie Rosenhauer, Konrad-Adenauer-Str 34, 37075 Gottingen Germany, (22/5)

**Show case:** Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Blythswood St, Glasgow (02/06)

**The Heat is On:** New National Glass Museum, Vine Street Stourbridge, DY84AA (11/6)

**Guest Artist:** London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (ongoing)

**Summer Exhibition:** Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Blythswood St, Glasgow (5/6)

**New Members Showcase:** Contemporary Applied Art, 89 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0HX

**Ruthin Craft Centre:** Making in Colour, Ruthin Craft Centre, Lon Parcwr, Ruthin LL15 1BB (1/10)

**Eclectic:** London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (28/10)

**Hyggie:** The Makers Guild in Wales, Craft in the Bay, Cardiff (11/11)

**Making a Winter’s Tale**: Contemporary Applied Art, 89 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0HX (16/11)

**Christmas Showcase:** Pyramid Designer Glassware, 23 St. Werburgh Street, Chester, CH1 2D (25/11)

**Christmas Exhibition:** Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Blythswood St, Glasgow (27/11)

**Christmas Show**: Cambridge Contemporary Art, Cambridge (26/11)

**Open House**: London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD

2017 **Out of the Woods**: The Byre Gallery, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, PL10 1AJ (1/4)

**Summer Exhibition**: Cambridge Contemporary Art, 6 Trinity St, Cambridge CB2 1SU (6/5)

**Jane Human/Ruth Shelley**: Bircham Gallery, 14 Market Pl, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6BW (22/7)

**Y lle Celf** – Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Ynys Mon (4/8)

**Glass Biennale 2017** -Ruskin Glass Centre & Arts Centre, Stourbridge, DY8 4HF (24/8)

**Persent and Collect** - Contemporary Applied Art, 89 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0HX (16/11)

**Eclectic:** London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (23/11)

2018 **Colour Theory** - Contemporary Applied Art, 89 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0HX (19/3)

## Glass Collection - [**Gallery TEN - 5 William Street - West End Edinburgh - EH3 7NG**](https://galleryten.co.uk/find-gallery-ten/) **(23/3)**

**Taste -** The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, PL10 1AJ (29/3)

## Summer Collection **- Bircham Gallery, 14 Market Pl, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6BW (16/6**)

## Affordable Art Fair**, - Linda Blackstone Gallery, The Studio, 23 Oaklands Road, London, N20 8AX**

**Christmas Show 2018** - John Noott Galleries – 10 The Green, Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7AA

**Winter –** Pyramid Gallery, 43 Stonegate, York YO1 8AW

2019 **A Colourful Life** - The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, PL10 1AJ (30/3)

**Abstract Show -** Cambridge Contemporary Art, 6 Trinity St, Cambridge CB2 1SU (6/4– 5/5)

**Inspired** - London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (31/5 – 15/6)

**With Jane Human -** Bircham Gallery, 14 Market Pl, Holt, Norfolk NR25 6BW (7/9 – 2/10)

**All Present and Collect** - Contemporary Applied Art, 6 Paddington Street, London, , W1U 5QG

**Christmas at London Glassblowing** - London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD

**Nadolig** - The Makers Guild in Wales, Craft in the Bay, Cardiff

2020 **Full Bloom**, The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, PL10 1AJ (6/5)

**Handcrafted**, The Makers Guild in Wales, Craft in the Bay, Cardiff (25/9 – 24/12)

**Present and Collect** - Contemporary Applied Art, 6 Paddington Street, London, , W1U 5QG (4/11 – 24/12)

**Bedazzled - London** Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD (12/11 – 24/12)

2021 **With Penelope Tinnis**, 74b Albany Rd, Cardiff, CF24 3RS (11/3 – 3/4)

**In Full View** - The Byre Gallery, Hillside, Hounster Hill, Millbrook, PL10 1AJ (27/3)

**With Maggie Brown**, 74b Albany Rd, Cardiff, CF24 3RS (6/5- 29/5)

**Rosebay Willowherb**, Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Blythswood St, Glasgow (5/10-12/11)

**Speaker at Seminar** – <http://www.just-glass.co.uk/> (30/10)

**Christmas at London Glassblowing** - London Glassblowing, 62-66 Bermondsey Street, London, SE1 3UD

**A Festive Feast**- The Makers Guild in Wales, Craft in the Bay, Cardiff (6/11–9/1 )

**Makers Guild Exhibition** - Turner House, Plymouth Rd, Penarth CF64 3DH 11/11 – 19/12

**Collections (Museums/Private), Commissions and Talks:**

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| Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors  Cardiff 2006 - 2009 | *5 ‘Wales Awards’* |
| Ysgol Berllan Deg  Cardiff 2010 | F*used Coloured Glass Window*  *(collaborative project with school pupils)* |
| Ysgol Mynydd Bychan  Cardiff 2003 | *Fused Coloured Glass Window*  *(collaborative project with pupils)* |
| Glas Cymru/Welsh Water Nelson 2012  Glass Biennale 2019  CGS Together on Wednesdays  Just Glass October 2021  Objects of Desire 2021 | 12 AGM Awards  Pechakucha Talk  Artist talk - Hidden Depth  Speaker at Conway Hall, London,  Film by the National Museum Wales |
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**Literature (Books/Magazines and Podcasts):**

**Talking Out Your Glass**: 2021 Season 6, episode 14, with Shawn Waggoner https://talkingoutyourglass.com/ruth-shelley/

**Whitepaperby**: 2021 <https://whitepaperby.com/ruth-shelley-glass/>

**Y Wawr**: Spring Edition 2021

**Bristish Glass Biennale**: Catalouge 2017

**Craft & Design Magazine:** Issue246 July/August 2016,p. 62-63 Change and Continuity by Keith Cummings

**Crafts Arts International:** Issue 96 May 2016, pg.117 Portfilio No 268,

**Bristish Glass Biennale**: Catalouge 2015 pg.77

**Homes and Antiques**: Issue 259 June/July 2014 ‘The contemporary craft festival’

**Crafts:** Vol. 242. May/June 2013. p.8. ‘Front: Turning Ten’. Crafts Council Publication. London

**Gift Focus Magazine:** Issue 72. July/August 2012 P.24-25

**Craft&design:** January/February 2012. Issue 219. p.16-17. ‘BCTF 2012 Preview’. Margaret Bunn. PSB Design & Print Consultants Ltd. Driffield

**Cohesion News:** February 2010. p.4. ‘New Members Profile: Ruth Shelley’

**Kiln Formed Glass:** 2010 pg 26. ‘Droplets’ by Helga Watkins-Baker