



INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN GLASS SCULPTOR IS FOCUS OF NEW MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITION Recent work by Michael Taylor goes on view April 19



ROCHESTER, NY, March 16, 2009 — An exhibition of new work by pioneering glass artist Michael Taylor opens April 19 at Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery. *A Unity of Opposites: Recent Work by Michael Taylor* will showcase a dozen glass sculptures, including a monumental work composed of hundreds of individual pieces, as well as related prints.

Former head of the glass program at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Taylor has built an international reputation for his use of form, line, color and light. "Math, poetry, molecular biology, and color theory all have a place in Michael Taylor's work," says Marie Via, Memorial Art Gallery director of exhibitions. "He's as interested in quantum physics as he is in beauty, as fascinated by the possibility of alternative universes as by engineering."

The Gallery is the only venue for the show, which remains on view through June 28.

Credits

A Unity of Opposites is underwritten by Lynne Lovejoy, with additional support from Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hursh, Aaron Klein and Maria Lauriello-Klein, the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, and the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund.

It is accompanied by an illustrated catalog (next page).

Artist lecture

Sunday, April 19 at 3 pm, Michael Taylor will speak in the Memorial Art Gallery auditorium. His lecture is included with Gallery admission.

About the sculptures

Michael Taylor has spent years pioneering and perfecting the cold-working process applied to optical glass. Highly technical and physically demanding, cold-working allows him to consider multiple variables and make artistic decisions at a much more controlled pace than the hot-worker's furnace allows. He works on a piece for weeks at a time, first approaching each geometric component independently, then as part of an organic whole. Taylor employs the grinding wheel to shape and polish individual blocks of colored and clear glass, which are then laminated together with a two-part epoxy resin, creating depth and tonality.

The resulting forms can be paired or arranged in endless combinations and variations of color, light, and shape.

About the artist

Michael Taylor was born at Lewisburg, TN, in 1944. Upon earning his BS in art education from Middle Tennessee State University, he was awarded a scholarship to the prestigious Penland School, where he was

introduced to glass as a fine art medium. A teaching career that was to span 33 years began immediately after he received his MA in sculpture and ceramics from East Tennessee State University in 1969. The following year, he attended the Toledo Museum School's Glass Workshop, where he met Dominick Labino, Harvey Littleton, and other seminal figures in the studio glass movement who exerted a powerful influence on his developing aesthetic.

A distinguished list of international awards, exhibitions, commissions, and teaching appointments followed. (For a complete listing, please see *Michael Taylor, A Geometry of Meaning*, the 289-page monograph published by Hudson Hills Press in 2006.) After years of starting new glass programs and then pulling up stakes in both the United States and Europe, a turning point came in 1981, when he was appointed head of the glass program at the Rochester (NY) Institute of Technology. Although he continued to travel and conduct workshops all over the world, upstate New York became his home base and remained so even after he retired from RIT in 2000.

One of his most important post-retirement commissions was a 14-foot hanging glass sculpture titled *Light Mantra*, designed in 2008 for the Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester. His work may be found in many impressive public collections, including the White House Collection of American Crafts, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, and Japan's Kurokabe Glass Museum. Private collectors of his work include former New York governor Mario Cuomo, actress Lauren Bacall, artist Louise Nevelson, and opera star Leontyne Price.

Today, he and his wife, Deborah Haber, live in Rochester. They have recently expanded their home to include additional space for Taylor's cold-glass studio.

Catalog

A Unity of Opposites: Recent Work by Michael Taylor will be accompanied by a full-color, 40 page catalog published by the Memorial Art Gallery. \$20 softbound, available in the Gallery Store. [Store information](#)

Also on view

A Unity of Opposites: Recent Work by Michael Taylor runs concurrently with the internationally touring exhibition *GlassWear*, which is organized and circulated by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City and the the Jewelry Museum in Pforzheim, Germany. [Click here to learn more](#)

Memorial Art Gallery on the web:

<http://mag.rochester.edu>

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