**GLASS TREASURES**

**- Studio glass exhibition and benefit auction**

**Exhibition dates:** 29 September – 13 October 2016

**Exhibition venue:** historical New Town hall Maashaus, Karlovo nám. 1/23, Praha 2

**Opening hours:** from Tuesday to Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM, entry across the courtyard, free.

**Auction date:** 13 October from 7 PM

**Auction venue:** the New Town hall Great hall, Karlovo nám. 1/23, Praha 2

**Admission:** free with invitation, 50 CZK for public

**Exhibition of leading Czech and foreign studio glass artists associated with benefit auction.**

Most of the exhibited artworks has been created by glass artists in 2014 – 2016 right in the Glass Art Center Glassworks František in Sázava.

The historically first Glass Treasure originates from July 2014; it was then created by the hands of the American glass artist Janusz Pozniak in a newly ignited ladle furnace František. During his two week Glass blowing class, he made a piece called Geometrical couple which he donated to the Glass Art Center. This gesture has been the origin of a new tradition. The same year, the Glass Treasure got enriched with artworks from the Czech top glass artists. Martin Janecký created a series of glass vessels, during the December demonstration of Venetian techniques for public, and Jiří Šuhájek got literally all wheels moving in František glassworks. With the centrifuge force and by blowing up the glass bits, the Crystal bird was born.

Since 2015, the Glass Art Center has invited regularly selected glass artists and has presented, within the Glass Summer event, various glass techniques to general public. Another glass artist, who accepted the invitation, was Ondřej Strnadel. His work is typical by its minimalism, almost purist, and a great sense of detail, evident from his hand blown plates. On the other hand, the American glass artist Rob Stern is more playful in his work, composing his vase from the individual hand made leaf –shaped glass fragments. Author‘s autograph cannot be denied to the glass artist Jiří Pačínek either. He created, in František glassworks, a Devil glass bust .

The event called Glass Lab Session became an important milestone in Glass Treasure expansion. It is a glass laboratory transforming the industrially manufactured glass into art pieces, glass sculptures, installations and design.

In November 2015, the Glass Art Center invited ten young artists and 4 students from all Europe. They spent one week working and experimenting with glass semi-products.

The latest Glass treasures have been made during this year’s traditional Glass Summer event. Objects and vases made by Ondřej Novotný, Christiaan D. Maas vase or Martin Štefánek‘s Venetian goblet range among them.

A guided tour and the beneficial auction of all the exposed artworks will take place right after the end of the exhibition on 13th October 2016 at 7 PM. The profit from the auction will be donated to support children and youth educational activities organized in the Glass Art Center Glassworks František in Sázava. Part of the profit will be donated to support children in the Sázava foster home.

The exhibition and auction partners are: Josef Viewegh Glassworks František foundation, DOROTHEUM Ltd., New Town hall, Prague and Museum of Applied Arts, Prague.

The Glassworks František is a unique technical monument which represents the evolution of glass art and craft in the Czech Republic. It was built in 1882 by Josef Kavalier and named after his father. However, after the construction of new glass shops and halls in Sázava, its importance started to drop and it was progressively deteriorating. In 2010, it was registered into the list of Cultural Heritage of the Czech Republic. It was Josef Viewegh Glassworks František foundation who worked to rescue this monument. It has been renovated with a 130 million crowns grant given by the Integrated Operational Program and on July the 7th, 2014, the Glass Art Center was formally opened. The visitors can see, among others, a part of a unique modern glass collection made by the glass artists during the International glass symposium IGS in Nový Bor between 1982 and 2006. The Center offers as well an educational program for schools, residences and creative stays for students, emerging artists, professionals and general public. The Glass Art Center is managed by the charitable trust Ways of Glass.

Represented artists: Janusz Pozniak, Rob Stern, Pavel Kopřiva Sr., Ondřej Novotný, Maria Koshenkova, Martin Janecký, Zdeněk Lhotský, Ondřej Strnadel, Christiaan D. Maas, Martin Štefánek, Jiří Pačínek, Lukáš Novák, Jiří Šuhájek, Petr Novotný, Vicky Higginson, Jakub Petr, Irena Czepcová, Vendulka Prchalová, Tomáš Kamenec, Verena Schatz, Claudia Vitari, Jesse Günther, David Yule, Jaromír Rybák, Vladimír Klein, and more.