

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER, 2010

REPORT ON THE 2010 ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING

FINLAND AND TALLIN

SEPTEMBER 6-10

In 2010 we held two major meetings, the Meeting of ICOM Glass in Finland and Tallin in September, and The Joint Meeting and ICOM General Conference in Shanghai in November. These were two interesting meetings that we have the pleasure of summarizing below.

The ICOM Glass Meeting in Finland and Tallin

The ICOM Glass Meeting was held, September 6-10, in Finland and Estonia, thanks to Kasia Koivisto and Heikki Matiskainen, chief curator and director of the Finnish Glass Museum. They organized an exciting program for all of us during the week. We had a really interesting meeting that allowed us to deepen our knowledge of the art and design of Finnish and Scandinavian glass.

The meeting was attended by 23 people from 13 different countries.

The opening registration and welcome reception by Paloma Pastor and Kaisa Koivisto took place at the Design Museum, in Helsinki, followed by an interesting visit to the Oiva Toika exhibition let by the artist. We had an excellent opportunity to meet him and get to know his interesting works.

After lunch, we visited the House of Parliament, one of the most important examples of Finnish arts and crafts in late 1920. In the late afternoon we visited the Design Forum, where we could see an interesting exhibition of Finnish design on glass.

The next day we visited the 11th collection exhibition of the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, *The common thing* (Finnish and Swedish Contemporary Arts), *It's a set-up*, and the Aalto University School of Art and Design in Helsinki. Kirsti Taiviola explained to us in detail the workshops, masters and courses they offer in the University.

After the lunch, offered by the University of Art and Design, we visited Arabia factory and Arabia Museum, where we know the history and evolution of this famous ceramics factory, one of the finest examples of modern Finnish design. In the late afternoon we went by bus to Riihimäki, where we had an unforgettable dinner offered by the Mayor of Riihimäki Mr. Seppo Keskirokanen.

On Wednesday, we had the lectures in the Finnish Glass Museum around the topic *Finnish Glass in Scandinavian Context*, presented by Heikki Matiskainen, Director of the Museum.

Heikki Matiskainen started the lectures. He presented an interesting analytical investigation of fragments from several Middle European glass factories. Kaisa Koivisto spoke about the changes in Finnish glass since the 1980's, when the Finnish Glass Lives exhibitions began to be staged by the Finnish Glass Museum. Uta Lauren spoke of the life and creations of one of the most important Finnish glass artist-designers, Helena Tynell, and her connection with Riihimäki Glasswork and The BEGA Company of Germany. Gunnel Holmer spoke about glass production in Sweden from 16th century and its dependence on immigrants from German speaking countries, Greece, Yugoslavia, etc., She explained why the managers at Kosta Glassworks employed workers from abroad, and she give interesting answers to several questions. Micael Ernstell presented the theme "Glassmaking in and around Stockholm 1670-1700". Anders Reihner, spoke about the artist and designer Edvin Ollers, who started a new era in Sweden. He showed the Edvin Ollers glasses which were bought at an auction in 1973,

in Stockholm, and were given in 1995 to the Finnish Glass Museum. Inger Helene Stemshaug spoke of Sverre Pettersen (1884-1959), a designer that work at Hadelands Glasswork and reintroduced engraving as a form of decoration in Norwegian glass. Anne Tiivel told us about the history of Stonian Glass, Teresa Médici talked about the Master of Glass Art and Science by the Faculty of Sciences and Technology (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and the Faculty of Fine Arts. Joze Rataj spoke of Raoul Goldoni, one of the most prominent designers in glass in Yugoslavia, in the second half of the 20th century. Finally, Marketa Vejrostova spoke about the production of S. Reich & Company and J. Schreiber & Neffer Company during the second half of the 19th century in the context of Czech and Middle-European glass manufacturing.

After the lunch, offered by the Finnish Glass Museum, we had the General Assembly of ICOM Glass, where we discussed the different topics listed below. Then Kaisa Koivisto led an interesting visit to the Finnish Glass Museum's permanent exhibition, and *The Riihimäki Glassworks 100 years anniversary exhibition*. Finally, we made a walking tour of the former Riihimäki glassworks site, where we learned about the Pekka Paunila Glass Studio and the Glassism Studio. The Friends of the Finnish Glass Museum Association offered us a reception at the Hunting Museum of Finland.

On Thursday, we went by bus to Iittala, to visit the Iittala Glass Museum and the Factory. After the lunch, offered by Iittala Group, we went by bus to Nuutajärvi, and we saw Nuutajärvi Glass Museum, Nutajärvi factory, The Glass School Tavastia, NuGO's (Nuutajärvi Gallery Cooperative) led by Sara Hulkonein, the Summer exhibition Jukebox, several workshops and galleries of the local glass artists, like Alma Jantunen, Johannes Rantasalo, Anu Penttinen, Markku Salo or Lea Swant.

On Friday we went by boat to Tallin in Estonia. Anne Tiive gave us a special visit walking around the old town and the Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design.

Finally we had a nice and unforgettable farewell lunch in Kohvik Moon, offered by the ICOM Glass.