

In this issue we unpack the blur of recent events surrounding Uroboros, Spectrum, and Oceanside Glasstile



PHOTO: COURTESY OF UROBOROS GLASS

After the art glass manufacturing tumult of 2016, a new year has dawned. As last year progressed, each week seemed to bring with it more uncertainty about the future of art glass manufacturing and with that, the future of suppliers, studios, and artists all over the globe.

When Spectrum Glass announced their closure, there was talk about the transition of knowledge to other manufacturers in some capacity, but it seemed certain that the glass made with the company's unique continuous flow process was likely to come to an end. A few months later, the message that Oceanside Glasstile had acquired Spectrum's equipment, formulas and intellectual property (IP) was a relief for many and a shock for almost all.

The roller coaster wasn't over: a few days later, Uroboros Glass announced that their company would be closing at the end of the year. "While we certainly hope to negotiate a deal with a new owner to move Uroboros and restart production of its products in a new location, nothing is certain at this time," said an end-of-September press release. It was again Oceanside Glasstile that found room in their facilities to be the new home of Uroboros art glass manufacturing, having come to an agreement to purchase all of Uroboros equipment, their formulas, and IP. A few days before 2017 arrived, the happy news was posted.

This acquisition of two glass manufacturers' knowledge, skills, and tools into one larger company is an unprecedented event in our industry, and we have given it a large amount of space in this issue. This is not to downplay the efforts of our other domestic manufacturers—who continue to make Herculean efforts to build cleaner factories—but simply to better understand the newest members of our communities.

For the last 40+ years, we have enjoyed a time of amazing growth due in large part to the incredible support of our manufacturing community. Our manufacturers have led the way in education about the potential and possibilities of the unique products they create that we use every day. They have donated to our classes and schools and invited us right into their factories to work and learn and share. Our loyalty to their companies is a direct result of the powerful village they helped us create.

This is a bittersweet time of change and growth. The Northwest community has been the home of an amazing trinity of art glass manufacturing companies for more than 40 years. While these changes seemed sudden to many of us, they are actually the culmination of years and years of great efforts on the part of our manufacturers to adjust to a changing world. The ripple effect of the economic collapse of 2008 continues to be a factor for all of our manufacturers. And even as Oceanside joins them, they will all continue to deal with new environmental regulations over the next several years.

And yet, it has also been a time of incredible creation. Despite the difficulties facing us in the last year, we have also seen enormous projects come to fruition all over the country and all over the world. We continue to come together stronger than ever in conferences, classes, and events. Summer approaches, and with it will come a myriad of ways to invest in our futures and share our passions: networking, competitions and exhibitions, classes and workshops.

In fact, one could argue that the difficulties we have faced have thrown into sharp relief how close we all truly are. Our art glass communities have been flourishing for many years and have many loves in common that we are now more aware of. The changes of the last year, which have really been underway for almost a decade, are not yet come to conclusion. In many ways, this is a natural convergence of resources which can bring us all into the future with optimism and renewed creativity.

The entire editorial board is thrilled with the potential and possibilities of the coming years. We hope that this latest issue of the Stained Glass Quarterly will be as interesting to our readers as it was for us to create. We cannot wait to see what is in store for all of us in the coming year.

The Editorial Committee ■