

Design news

Barbara
ChandlerENCOUNTERS
WITH
GLASS

TOP glassmakers – and their fans – from all over the world are gathering in Britain this bank holiday weekend for the fourth International Festival of Glass in Stourbridge, West Midlands (just over two hours by train from Marylebone). “If you love glass, this is the place to be,” says festival co-director, **Keith Brocklehurst**, a glass artist himself. “Our festival has 12 major exhibitions, plus countless smaller shows, special shops, talks, demos, workshops, markets and so on, in one of the most historic areas for making glass anywhere.”

Most shows continue into at least September. Key sites and shows include the Ruskin Glass Centre (2010 British Glass Biennale, 81 glass artists, to September 11), the listed Red House Glass Cone (Made in Glass 2010, 18 glass artists, to September 26); and the Broadfield House Glass Museum (Transformations: Furniture in Glass, 12 modern makers, to February 27, 2011). Glimpse the future as maker Matt Durran introduces a portable biofuelled recycling glass furnace (Sunday at noon, Ruskin Glass Centre).

London has more glowing glass events. Blast 2010 opens next month at the Zest Gallery, near Earls Court. Admire – and buy – sculptural work by the Cohesion Glass Network,

Handle with care: Rome doorknobs in silver and gold – 60mm, £99; 40mm, £50; 30mm, £40. Aaronson Noon Glass Studio, Roxby Place, SW6



Splash of colour: Relic, a glass fish sculpture by Bob Crooks, £2,445, is at the British Glass Biennale exhibition (biennale.org.uk)



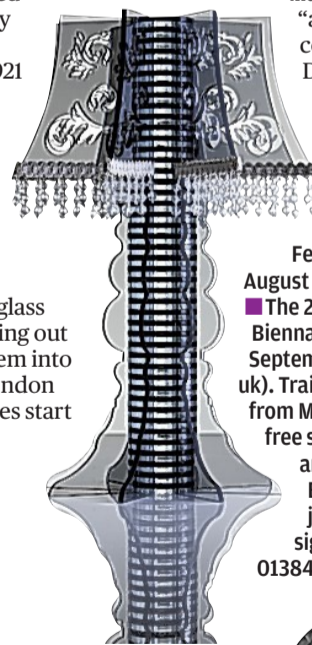
whose members give each other professional support and share expertise. Show co-curator is **Adam Aaronson**, who has a busy studio alongside the gallery. Peep in to see him making wall panels, bowls, jugs, lamps and so on, with his team. His door handles and curtain pole finials are popular and unusual. On Saturdays, you can even join a glass-making workshop.

A huge flock of glass birds designed for Iittala over the years by the 79-year-old Finn **Oiva Toikka**, is gathering at Notting Hill Gallery Vessel from September 16 to October 16 in a show to celebrate an acclaimed career of 50 years. Toikka creates a bird annually, each a new challenge for the Iittala glass makers in the Finnish village of

Nuutajarvi, where the glass master also lives. “Toikka’s vibrant colourful work is a refreshing contrast to the cool restraint of other Scandinavian design,” says Vessel founder/director Angel Monzon.

On show now in Mayfair (until September 10) are lights and furniture by modern designers for London-based Established & Sons. They are made by Venini, the famous glassworks founded in 1921 on the island of Murano in the Venetian lagoon. Here highly skilled artisans – some are fifth-generation glass blowers – have used the same methods and tools for centuries.

Rescuing beautiful old glass decanters, carefully cutting out the bases and turning them into pendant lamps is east London designer **Lee Broom**. Prices start



Bright idea: The witty Bar Roc(k)oco lamp by Margareth Troli, £1,900

From left: Grass Eider, £169; Rosebud, £199; Knitter, £429; Ladybird, £599; Fiskarina, £369; Ibis Green, £289. At Vessel Gallery



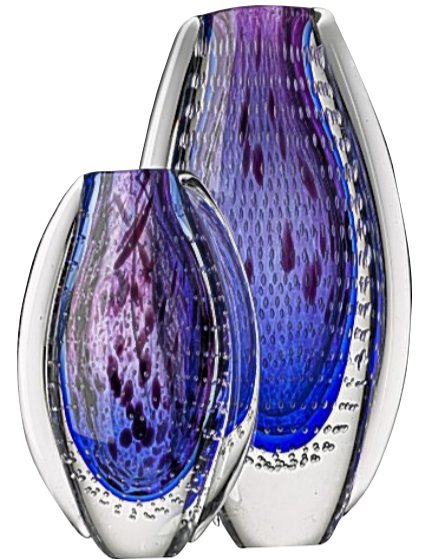
from £295. Broom now has decanter scouts all over the country. “My lights are not limited editions but obviously each is different,” he says. “I’ll only stop if supplies dry up.”

A hunt on the high street this autumn will reveal several arty glass pieces designed here and hand-made abroad – at very reasonable prices. Leading the way is LSA International, where creative director **Monika Lubkowska-Jonas** uses the skills of traditional Polish artisans for clean-lined pieces, now with metallic and coloured swirls (from £40 for a set of four tumblers).

And **Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen** also uses Polish skills for an amber-coloured hand-made vase reminiscent of Art Nouveau (£20 for Matalan).

Meanwhile, fashion designer **Julien Macdonald** has created “art glass” for his Star collection at Debenhams. Heavy

Coupled: Star purple art vases by Julien Macdonald (medium-size, £19.50; tall version, £38 (debenhams.com; 08445 616161))



In the frame: Brett Manley’s “Fragments” frames. From £240. Zest Gallery (020 7610 1900)

chunky vases in swirls of purple or black sell from £12 to £38, made in China.

THE SHOWS TO SEE, THE SHOPS TO VISIT

■ The International Festival of Glass is on August 27-30 (ifg.org.uk).
■ The 2010 British Glass Biennale is on August 27-September 11 (biennale.org.uk). Trains for Stourbridge leave from Marylebone, NW1, with free shuttle from the station and around key venues. By car: via the M5, junction 4, then follow signs. For enquiries, call 01384 399410.

■ Blast 2010, September 9 to November 6, Roxby Place, SW6. zestgallery.com; 020 7610 1900.
■ aaronsonnoon.com
■ leebroom.com; 0820 0742
■ Vessel, 114 Kensington Park Road, W11. vesselgallery.com; 020 7727 8001.
■ Established & Sons, 2-3 Duke Street, SW1 establishedandsons.com; 020 7968 2040.
■ isa-international.com; 01932 789721.
■ matalan.co.uk; 0845 330 3330.
■ debenhams.com; 08445 616161.

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