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***Asheville Art Museum Announces Upcoming Series of
Public Programs on Studio Glass: May + June 2012***

May 19 Glass Workshop | June 5 Art Adventurers Glass Tour | June 8 Tour + Artist Discussion

ASHEVILLE, NC — The Asheville Art Museum is delighted to announce a series of glass programs scheduled for May and June 2012, beginning with a **Glass Making Workshop on Saturday, May 19 at the Asheville Glass Center**, located in the River Arts District. From **10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** participants will learn *hands-on* glass techniques from renowned glass artist Rob Levin, whose works have been featured in public and private collections around the world. **Early registration is recommended by May 11. The program cost is \$250 for Museum Members and \$300 for non-Members**; call 828.253.3227 to register.

On **Tuesday, June 5 from 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Museum Members and visitors are invited to join us for **An Art Adventurer’s Glass Tour** of Penland School of Crafts and the Energy Xchange. Led by Museum staff members and Gwynne Ruckenbrod, glass artist and Executive Director of HandMade in America, the tour offers participants the opportunity to meet glass artists Rick Beck and Andre Gutgesell, both instructors at Penland School of Crafts, as well as Penland Resident glass artist Micah Evans. Following visits to the studios of artists Shane Fero and Pablo Soto, the tour concludes at the Energy Xchange, a nonprofit that “applies the use of renewable resources and practices for educational opportunities and economic developments in the fields of art and horticulture”. **Reservations for the tour are required by May 10**; call 828.253.3227. **Tickets are \$65 for Museum Members and \$75 for non-Members.**

Finally, the Museum will host a special **Up for Discussion on Friday, June 8 at 12:00 Noon**. Guests will enjoy a guided tour of the Museum’s current exhibition *Fire on the Mountain: Studio Glass in*

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Western North Carolina, featuring many works by pioneers of the Studio Glass movement, such as Harvey Littleton, Mark Peiser, Richard Ritter and many others. Led by distinguished glass artists Christina Bothwell and Robert Bender, the tour continues at Blue Spiral 1 Gallery, where Bothwell, Bender and many of the *Fire on the Mountain* artists are also featured in current exhibition *Glass Secessionism*. This two-part tour and discussion is **free with Membership or regular admission to the Museum**. For more information, call Nancy Sokolove, Adult Programs Manager, at 828.253.3227, ext. 120.

Image credits (left to right): Rob Levin, Yellow Urn, 2011, frosted and hand-blown glass, 10 inches high. Image and artwork courtesy of the Artist. Instructor Martin Janeck and his students working on a large piece in the Penland glass studio. Photo Robin Dreyer, Courtesy Penland School of Crafts.

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors, students with ID and for children 4-15 (children age three and younger are admitted free). Members are admitted free to the Museum.

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

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