

PETER LAYTON LONDON GLASSBLOWING

Kumano Kodo
London Glassblowing, Bermondsey Street SE1
9 – 21 November

London Glassblowing's latest exhibition focusses on the work of artist Tim Rawlinson. The 33 year old's new collection, Essence, has been inspired by a trip to Japan in November 2017, where he walked the Kumano Kodo, an ancient pilgrimage route that stretches across the mountainous Kii Peninsula.

'I was particularly interested by the different stones on the trail,' says the Buckinghamshire New University graduate. 'They all had extraordinary textures and formations, often caused by the natural process of shaping by river rapids and the moss growing around them. In Japan it's believed that these rocks carry spirits within them and my new pieces attempt to convey a sense of the intriguing colours and shapes – to get to that spiritual essence of the stones and recapture the atmosphere from that walk.'

To do this, he has employed a new, hybrid making technique that combines blown elements within cast sculptural forms, emphasising his fascination with glass and light. 'The way light passes through glass informs my work,' he says. 'It gives an energy that transforms the material, that projects out onto its surroundings, changing its environment.'



London Glassblowing founder Peter Layton believes Rawlinson, who earlier this year took part in a joint exhibition with rug designer Sonya Winner, is establishing himself as an artist to be reckoned

with. 'I spotted Tim when he was exhibiting at the New Designers exhibition in the Business Design Centre in 2011 and recognised a future star instantly,' he says. 'I offered him some work experience in the workshop and that has turned into a permanent position. He is, in my view, a leading light in the next generation of glass artists.'

Alongside the exhibition, Rawlinson will be doing a demonstration as well as giving a talk on 17 November.

Information for editors:

London Glassblowing is one of the UK's most renowned contemporary glass studios. Importantly it is a place where pieces are made as well as displayed. Located in one of the capital's cultural hotspots of Bermondsey Street, it was founded by Peter Layton in 1976.

Layton initially started his professional life as a ceramist, learning at the Central School of Art and Design under the likes of Ruth Duckworth and Gordon Baldwin, before travelling to the States and working in the ceramics department of the University of Iowa. By coincidence Harvey Littleton and a number of other potters were working on new hot glass techniques there at the time and he became smitten with the material.

Nowadays the studio consists of Layton, who at the age of 81 remains extraordinarily active, as well as 10 resident artists – from some of the nation's leading names in glass such as Louis Thompson and Layne Rowe via up-and-coming makers like Elliot Walker. Together they create pieces in the workshop at the back of the building.

The studio is available for bespoke private, corporate or public commissions. Each one is given careful and comprehensive consideration to provide unique and inspired solutions to any given brief. These may be free-blown, hot-worked in solid glass, or moulded and kiln-formed as required, and in consultation, with the client.

Entry to the studio and gallery is free and visitors can pull up a chair to watch master makers at work. London Glassblowing also offers glass making classes (although is fully booked for 2018).

For further information and images please contact Cora Kemp
cora@informare.co.uk
07903 481131