

# PETER LAYTON LONDON GLASSBLOWING

## A Magical Christmas with London Glassblowing

Magic is happening on Bermondsey Street this Christmas; London Glassblowing is not only home to exquisite pieces of glass work but also the place to watch the magic of glass blowing itself. It is the perfect destination for Christmas shoppers looking for a unique gift with a range of glass pieces created by some of the nation's leading names in glass including Peter Layton who founded London Glassblowing in 1976.

New pieces for Christmas range from the charming whimsical creations of Morag Reekie and Philip Vallentin to extraordinary pieces of craftsmanship from Vezzini & Chen, Cathryn Shilling or Peter Layton himself.

Harris by artist Sue Tinkler is a collection of beautiful vessels which take inspiration from Harris Tweed the world-famous beautiful fabric. Harris reflects the colours and textures of the Hebridean landscape, turquoise sea, rugged barnacle encrusted rocks and peat bogs.



Harris by Sue Tinkler



Frost by Vezzini & Chen

Vezzini & Chen create pieces which are defined by the artful marriage of hand carved ceramics and blown glass. The collections tread a thin line between conceptual and functional, frost is a collection of beautiful sculptural bowls that take inspiration from crisp winter mornings.

Morag Reekies work reflects her family life; mischievous, colourful glass sculptures have evolved from drawings inspired by playing with her children. Her signature cheeky mice sculptures are bright, childlike and playful bringing joy and smile to the viewer.

Cathryn Shilling is best known for her trademark glass cloth pieces which utilise the Venetian glass cane techniques. The canes are made by drawing molten glass into fine threads of no more than one or two millimetres. Cathryn uses a painstaking process to bring these together, strand upon strand, and then fuses them in the kiln until they resemble sheets of woven fabric. Her set of mini dioramas is a stunning addition to any collection.

Laura McKinley's fascination for glass as a creative medium stems from its capacity to constantly alter her initial thoughts and expectations. The spontaneity of the hot material demands instant visual judgments that give rise to shifts in her ideas. These allow her to make tangible her explorations of volume, scale and the random interplay of forms. Imagine VIII is a continuation of her Imagine series which explores form, texture and the illusion of space.



Laura McKinley Imagine VIII

This Autumn sees the launch of Peter Layton's new book - A Celebration of Colour: Peter Layton and London Glassblowing. The stunning book lavishly illustrates Layton's best known pieces as well as throwing a spotlight on the studio's resident artists. It also includes essays from renowned critic and curator Glenn Adamson whilst former Crafts deputy editor Imogen Greenhalgh explains the history of the studio glass movement, profiles Peter Layton and investigates his extraordinary legacy.

[www.londonglassblowing.co.uk](http://www.londonglassblowing.co.uk)

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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.

The workshop 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 2019).