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When a chef seeks to convey a sense of coolness to guests on a hot summer evening in Tokyo, the serving vessel of choice is often made of glass—as icy as the surface of a garden pond in winter. Since the introduction of glass beads from China in the 4th century, the Japanese have embraced glass as a medium for producing everything from blown-glass wind chimes and glass fishing floats to exquisite cut-glass bowls that adorn the summer tables of the aristocracy. Influenced in the 16th century by gifts of glassware from early Dutch and Portuguese emissaries, the Japanese quickly developed techniques and skills that rivaled the great glass makers of Europe. Today, contemporary artists working in glass in Japan are creating work that has captured international attention for its originality and fine craftsmanship.



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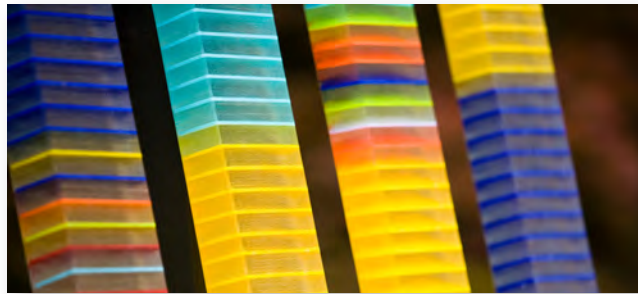
Art in the Garden

Frozen Music: Glass in the Garden

2008



Photography by Jonathan Ley



▲ Bullseye Glass President Dan Shwoerer (right) and assistant install Jun Kaneko's Color Box outdoors in the Garden.

Frozen Music: Glass in the Garden

For the June, 2008, *Art in the Garden* series, the Garden presented an exhibition entitled *Frozen Music: Glass in the Garden* from June 14-30. In collaboration with Bullseye Gallery, this exhibition complemented the Glass Art Society's 38th Annual Conference in Portland by bringing to the Garden contemporary works of art in glass by six prominent Japanese artists, including internationally acclaimed artist Jun Kaneko from the collection of Bullseye Glass, featured in a special outdoor installation. Collected by art museums around the world and best known for his large scale ceramic sculpture, Kaneko completed a year's Artist in Residency with Bullseye Glass studios in Portland, which resulted in a number of stunning works in glass, three of which are on view in the Garden through July 31, 2008.



In the Garden Pavilion, the exhibition featured the glass work of Kazumi Ikemoto, Masami Koda, Etsuko Nishi, Yoko Yagi, and Hiroshi Yamano. Each of these artists approaches the medium differently, but with a sensibility nuanced with the Japanese love for meticulous craftsmanship, distinctive respect for the material, and particularly in the work of Masami Koda and Hiroshi Yamano, an explicit reverence for nature. In his stunning *From East to West: Nagare* series, Yamano provides the underlying current that flows through this entire exhibition of work by Japanese artists—crossing borders and boundaries, creating a bridge between cultures through the international medium of contemporary glass.

