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A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS CULTURAL, ARTISTIC AND ENTERTAINING IN MADISON

May 10, 2012

Liberal Arts

07:58 AM

## Clearly Inspired

BY KATIE VAUGHN



**W**alk into the Pleasant T. Rowland Galleries at the [Chazen Museum of Art](#) and a magnificent figure greets you. It's *Dress Impression with Wrinkled Cow!*,\* a cast glass work by Karen LaMonte. The life-size form of a dress, with fine wrinkles up top and a fluid swish at the bottom, is slightly haunting, like an elegant apparition.

It's a beautiful opening moment to *Spark and Flame: 50 Years of Art Glass and the University of Wisconsin-Madison*, an exhibition running through August 5. The show highlights the work of roughly a hundred artists, collected by three University of Wisconsin alumni, and celebrates the influence of Harvey Littleton, the "father of the studio glass movement" who founded the country's first university glass-blowing program at

UW-Madison in the 1960s.

The work showcased in the first room of the exhibition is diverse, ranging from small to large, clear to colorful, abstract to representational, minimalist to intricately detailed.

Christopher Reis's *Lotus* is a sleek, sharp form reminiscent of a sail or candle flame carried out in perfectly clear glass. Emma Varga's *Vibrant Red #10* is a form of glass with a red organic, fern-like form inside.

In *Awakening* by John Littleton and Kate Vogel, a hand within a block of clear glass removes a mask from a woman's face. The eyes of the mask are closed while the woman's eyes are open.

Kreg Kallenberger's *Phantom Canyon* is a watermelon slice-shaped form of clear glass; inside, a natural scene of rocks, water and greenery exists atop a rough, craggy bottom. Contrasting the small detail of this piece is Joey Kirkpatrick and Flora Mace's *Pear*. The giant piece of fruit is perky and satisfyingly straightforward.

Throughout the room, sculptures, vessels and jewelry can be seen on platforms, in glass cases and hung on walls.

### About This Blog



As managing editor at *Madison Magazine*, I'm also an unabashed arts enthusiast. Paintings, plays, music, movies—I'm intrigued by all forms of creative expression. I enjoy talking with artists and sharing their insights, challenges, inspirations and latest endeavors. Check in regularly for details on events,

previews and reviews, artist interviews and more! —  
*Katie Vaughn*

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