

Common Threads: A Glass Exploration of Kantha Embroidery



A Hilltop Artists installation in the W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory

Tacoma, WA – A new installation, *Common Threads: A Glass Exploration of Kantha Embroidery*, created by Hilltop Artists students will soon be on view at the W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory in Tacoma's Wright Park.

This innovative and unique exhibition features student-made glass that was inspired by Kantha embroidery. Kantha is a textile artform from South Asia that tells tales through patterns and symbols. Hilltop Artists students learned about Kantha embroidery from Cathy Stevulak and Leonard Hill, co-producers of the documentary film *Threads*. The film chronicles the life of Surayia Rahman, a self-trained, passionate artist who guided hundreds of underprivileged women in Bangladesh to create Kantha masterworks. Students translated what they learned into vivid and creative works of glass art.

Visitors will see how the students used a variety of glassmaking techniques. One in particular -- sand casting -- exemplifies how symbols can represent a story. Each student brought in objects with personal meaning, such as jewelry, mementos, and toys. They pressed each object into the sand to make a mold in which molten glass was poured, immortalizing their personal story in glass.

In addition to sand casting, there will be blown glass, mosaics, and fused glass in the installation. These art objects feature motifs and designs from the Kantha tradition, such as paisley, mandalas, and flowers.

The public's first opportunity to purchase glass art in the installation will be in the Sneak Preview on Friday, April 15. Festive food provided by Gateway to India as well as beverages are included with the event. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at www.hilltopartists.org/common-threads-installation.

Common Threads will be on view from April 12 to May 26, 2016. The W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory is located at 316 South G Street, Tacoma, WA 98405. More information

about *Common Threads*, including the students' process of creating the glass, can be found at www.hilltopartists.org/common-threads-installation.

Events:

For tickets and more information, please visit www.hilltopartists.org/common-threads-installation or call 253.571.7670. The student-made glass will be available for purchase starting at the Sneak Preview.

- Sneak Preview of *Common Threads: A Glass Exploration of Kantha Embroidery*
- April 15, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Tickets: \$20. Capacity is limited to 120 people

About Hilltop Artists

For 22 years, Hilltop Artists has been transforming the lives of youth through the power of art, adult mentorship, and wrap-around services. Established in 1994 with the help of Dale Chihuly, Hilltop Artists is a 501(c)3 nonprofit glass arts program that provides classes and individualized instruction for over 500 students ages 12-20 each year. Through the program, young people have an opportunity to learn the art of glassblowing, mosaics, fused glass, and beadwork. Hilltop Artists serves a diverse group of youth and is especially effective with young people who are searching for ways to connect and belong. There is an additional focus on assisting those who find themselves struggling academically, socially, and/or behaviorally. Hilltop Artists is dedicated to the mission, "Using glass art to connect young people from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to better futures."

About the W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory

The W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory is a Victorian-style conservatory located in Tacoma's Wright Park.

The building is one of three public Victorian-style conservatories on the West Coast and is listed on city, state, and national historic registers. In all, 3,000 glass panes cover its 12-sided dome and two wings. The conservatory houses more than 250 species of plants, including more than 200 orchids. Its mission is to connect people with nature.

Metro Parks Tacoma manages Wright Park and the conservatory, which is named for its original benefactor, W.W. Seymour.

The Conservatory is open to the public Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free with a \$3 suggested donation.

<http://www.exit133.com/newswire/view/common-threads-a-glass-exploration-of-kantha-embroidery#.Vxf2o9QrK70>