

## Artist Biographies

Glassblower **George Kennard** has been at The Museum for four years, after spending eight years working in private studios. He began his tenure at The Museum as an instructor in The Studio of The Corning Museum of Glass, teaching beginning and continuing classes in glassblowing. Kennard enjoys the limitless opportunities for creating with molten glass and prefers making large-scale *incalmo* pieces, those that join two blown glass bubbles to create different bands of color.

Maestro **Lynn LaBarr** has been blowing glass for more than 25 years. He began his career creating beakers, flasks, funnels, and other items used in laboratories for Corning Incorporated and has been at The Museum for five years. Fascinated by the process of glassblowing and the ability to transform molten glass into beautiful and useful objects, LaBarr finds his work addicting.

Gaffer **Don Pierce** has been working glass for 20 years. After completing the six-year Steuben apprenticeship program in only four years, he began his tenure with Steuben and came to The Museum five years ago. Invigorated by the creative expressions blowing glass provides, Pierce enjoys imagining a piece and then making it real with his hands.

As a child, **Steve Gibbs** spent Sunday afternoons at The Corning Museum of Glass day dreaming about life as a glass blower. At 14, he began an apprenticeship with his uncle, a master leaded glass artist with over half a century of glassworking experience. Fresh out of art college, he was hired by Steuben and worked for 17 years as a production manager, supervising many of the Steuben Factory operations, including supervision of the hot shops, engraving staff, cold shops, and special commission production. He was introduced to hot glassblowing at Steuben and has spent the last 5 years developing the public live glass making demonstrations at The Corning Museum of Glass. Currently, he serves chiefly as the Events Marketing Manager and is responsible for managing all CMOG public programming including, The Hot Glass Roadshow, Flameworking Live, 2300 degrees, and The Hot Glass Show. Steve is fascinated with the many wonders of glass, and still gets excited as he continues to explore this ancient and mystical material. His greatest gift is his ability to share this exploration with an audience.

**John Cowden** has been a Narrator at the Corning Museum of Glass Hot Glass Show for 4 years, coming to The Museum with more than 10 years in the field of glassworking. As the Narrator, John serves as the liaison between the glassblower and the audience, explaining the activities on stage with precision and clarity. Before joining The Museum, John primarily used cold working techniques, processes such as slumping, making molds, grinding, and polishing, where time is not a pressure. On the Hot Glass Show Stage where the medium is molten glass, the continuum of time from the beginning to the end is instant, demanding that objects be produced immediately.