



**Nancy Callan:**  
***Seventh-Inning Stretch***  
Works in glass, 2001-2008

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except "Bee Buoys" by Rob Vinnedge  
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Cover image: **Mod Clam-Cloud** 2008 13" x 21" x 8" Blown and Etched Glass  
Inside cover: **Mod Clam-Cloud** detail

## Nancy Callan: *Seventh-Inning Stretch*

Works in glass, 2001-2008

**Muskegon Museum of Art**  
Muskegon, Michigan  
February 26–May 24, 2009  
[www.muskegonartmuseum.org](http://www.muskegonartmuseum.org)

**The Pittsburgh Glass Center**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
July 3–October 3, 2009  
[www.pittsburghglasscenter.org](http://www.pittsburghglasscenter.org)



**Mod Winkle** 2008 27" x 9" x 8" Blown and Etched Glass



*Bling Bling Bee Buoy* 2006 17" x 12" x 12" Blown Glass

### **Nancy Callan: Seventh-Inning Stretch**

Works in Glass, 2001-2008

*Seventh-Inning Stretch* represents seven years of Nancy Callan's explorations of the fine art of glass. Rich in craft and technique, these works build upon the past to create forms and patterns that are both modern and playful. Callan represents a generation of glass artists that have come from the hot shops and classrooms of the pioneers of the studio glass movement, she herself studying, teaching with, and assisting such prominent artists as Lino Tagliapietra, Ginny Ruffner, and Josiah McElheny. The variety of ideas and shapes present in the exhibition speak to her own unique voice in the field, and the ways in which the artist's sensibilities and the working of glass are inseparably linked.

At first view, the viewer is struck immediately by a grand sense of fun and play, of bold colors and familiar childhood forms. This is very much Callan's intent, as she draws her inspiration from childhood wonders such as comic book pages and spinning tops. Indeed, she notes that her favorite review is "Your show just made me smile." Several series of objects are present in the exhibition. The Stinger series pieces are bright and dense, iconic in colors inspired by comic characters such as Batman and Robin, Aquaman, and Captain America. The Bee Butts conjure images of Saturday morning cartoons, or of bobbers floating gently on the end of a fishing line. Even the Cane Tops, their surfaces masked by richly elegant patterns and textures, hold true to their inspiration, and offer a form that viewers can identify and relate to. The Neo-Nature series, with works such as "Flight of the Lobster" and "Pink Underbelly," are both familiar and alien, inspired by nature yet wholly their own, a quest for perfection in the singular form and the balance between control and happenstance within the material and pattern.

Past the sense of play and wonder are evidence of great technical skill and the innovative transformation of traditional techniques. The great challenge for Callan in her work is to find the ideal balance between the form and pattern, to push each as far as possible to strengthen the other, while remaining open to chance. To achieve her patterns, Callan has built upon the Venetian cane technique, wherein rods of glass are fused together before being rolled around a globe of transparent glass. Callan begins with canes of varied widths and may employ several layers of canes to arrive at the desired effect. Her innovation is most visible in her Scottish tartan patterns, resulting in a quirky melding of cultures. The Cane Tops reveal the richest range of technical exploration, in both hot and cold work. Many are elegantly transparent, with open passages that fragment the light and solid patterns that cast complex webs of shadows. Some are opaque, with sandblasted and etched surfaces, while others employ the incalmo technique of merging differently colored spheres into a single form. Callan's explorations are not only technical, but are also highly formal. The whimsical Top Samplers are inspired by the contemporary tops of Japan, and showcase a studied examination of shape and proportion, while maintaining the artist's sense of wonder.

The play and joy that inform Nancy Callan's art make her work immediately accessible, even for those that know little about modern glass. For the more informed audience, her pieces not only continually challenge the technical possibilities of the medium, but address the larger fine art dialogue between form, color, and pattern, and all that they can be used to convey.

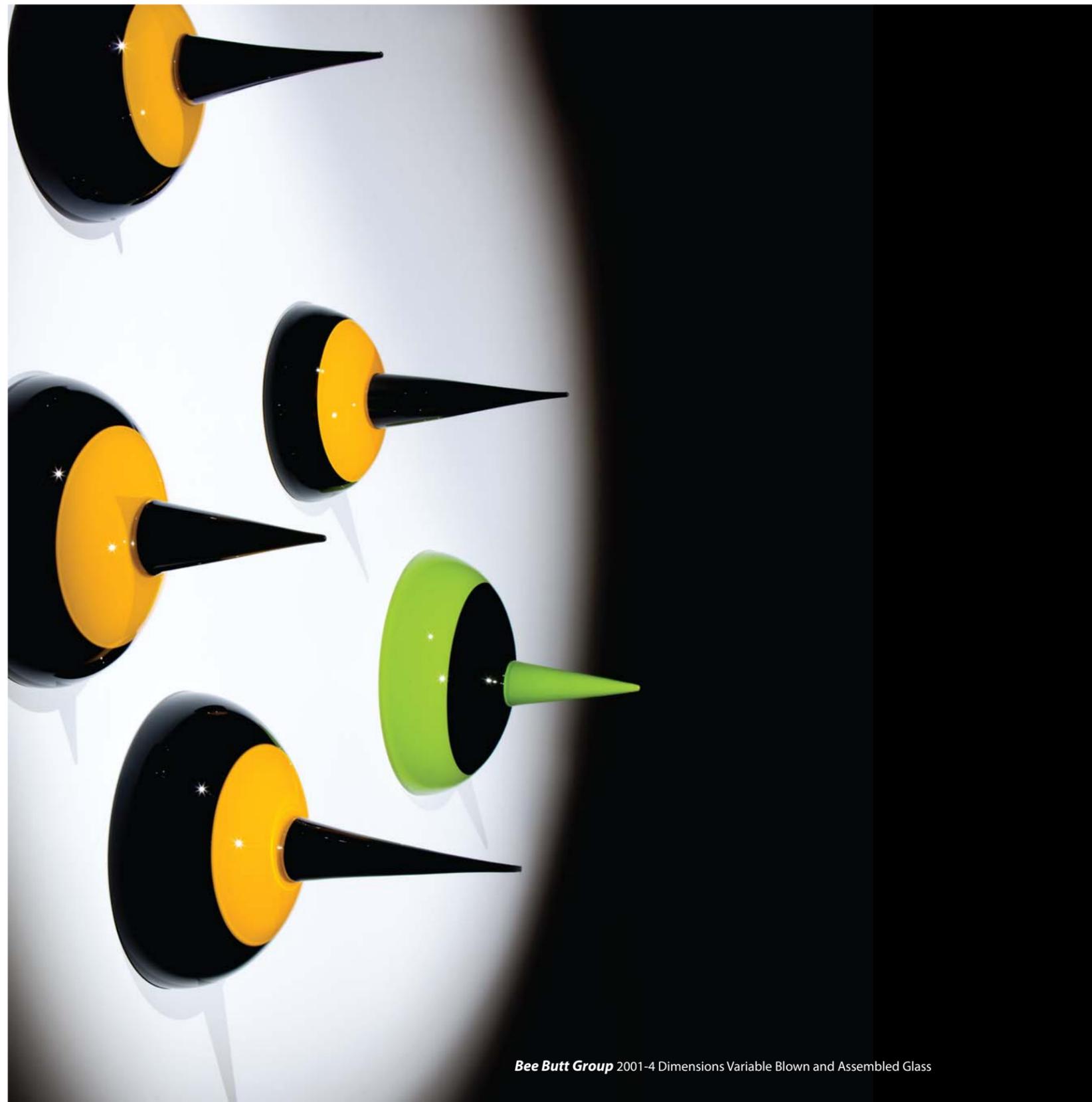
The Muskegon Museum of Art has collected and exhibited glass since 1925. We are particularly indebted to the late C. Corcoran "Corky" Tuttle, a Muskegon collector and gallery owner whose passion for glass helped position the MMA at the forefront of the contemporary studio glass movement. We are delighted to bring the work of Nancy Callan to our audience. It is a privilege for the MMA to contribute to the growth of the studio glass movement and to the careers of so many talented and exciting artists.

#### **Art Martin**

Collections Manager and Assistant Curator  
Muskegon Museum of Art



*Creamside Bee Buoy* 2006 17" x 12" x 12" Blown Glass

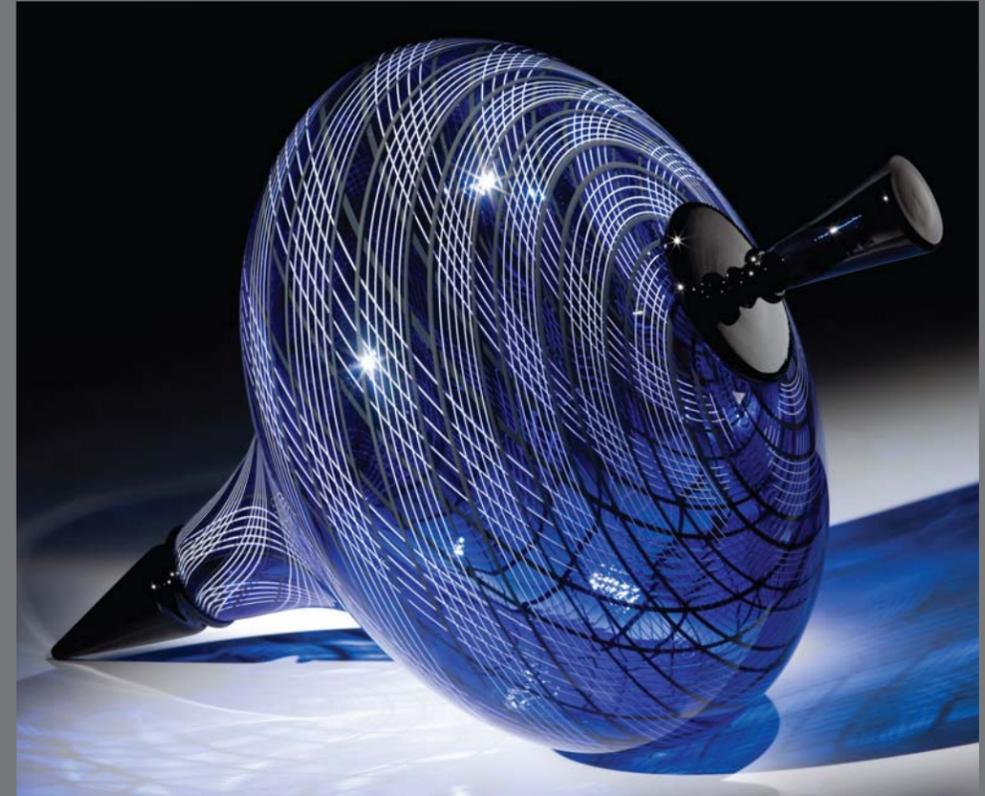


*Bee Butt Group* 2001-4 Dimensions Variable Blown and Assembled Glass

*"Batman" Stinger* 2008 29" x 15" x 15" Blown and Assembled Glass  
*"Robin" Stinger* 2008 28" x 14" x 14" Blown and Assembled Glass



*Pucci Twist Top* 2008 12" x 13.5" x 15" Blown and Assembled Glass



*Ultramarine Tartan Top* 2008 14" x 14" x 21" Blown and Assembled Glass

*Pink Underbelly* 2008 24" x 11" x 7" Blown and Etched Glass

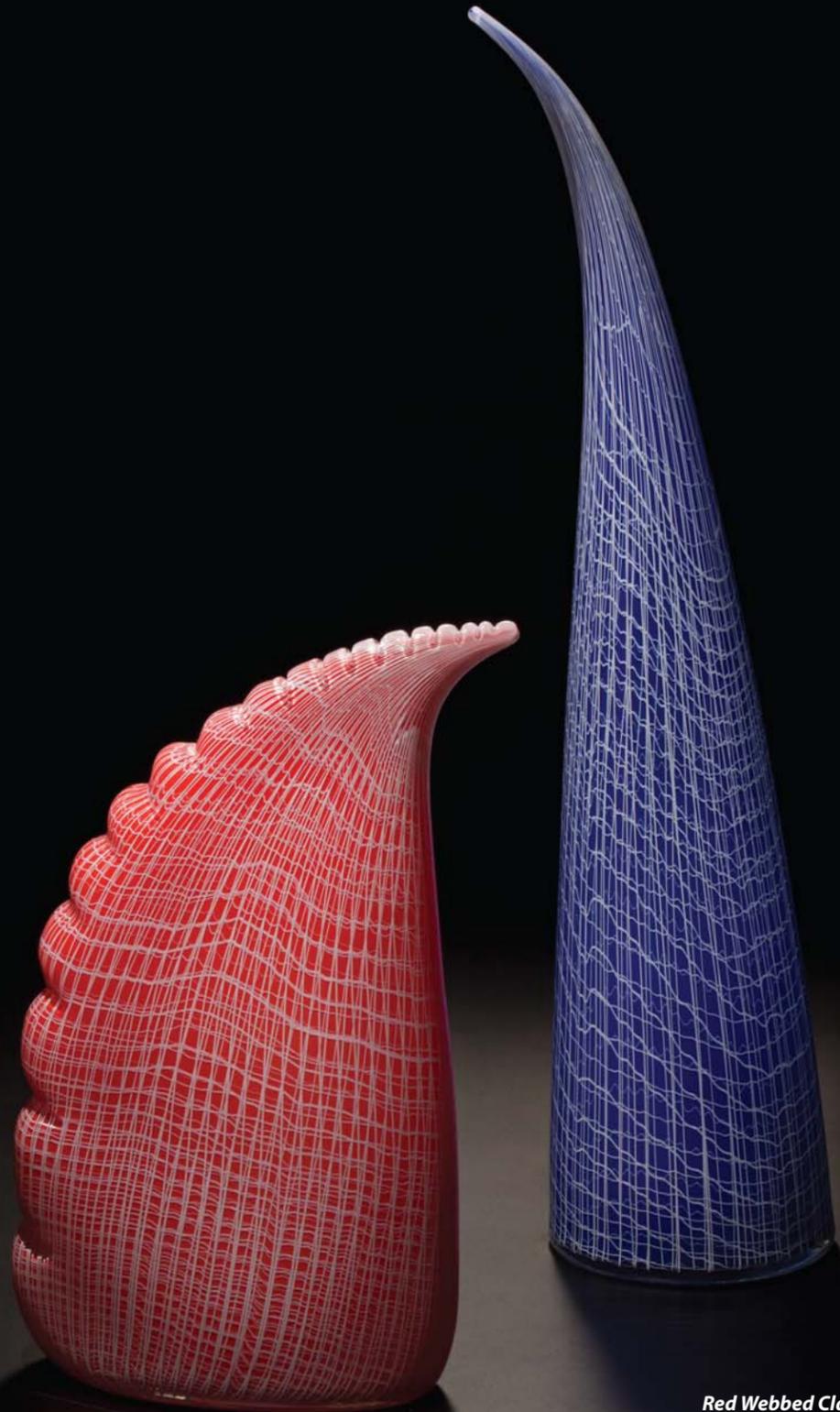


*Northern Lights Clam-Cloud* 2008 13" x 19" x 7" Blown and Etched Glass

*Flight of the Lobster* 2008 27" x 12" x 8" Blown and Etched Glass



*Red Webbed Claw* 2008 19" x 12" x 5" Blown Glass  
*Blue Webbed Winkle* 2008 34" x 10" x 8" Blown Glass



## Nancy Callan

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2009 "Nancy Callan: Come On Get Happy," Hawk Gallery, Columbus, OH  
2008 "NeoNature," Traver Gallery, Seattle, WA  
"Nancy Callan," Davis and Cline Gallery, Ashland, OR  
2007 "Wobble and Bob," The Daniel Kany Gallery, Portland, ME  
2006 "Woolgathering," William Traver Gallery, Seattle, WA  
"New Work," Alysia Duckler Gallery, Portland, OR  
2005 "Nancy Callan," Alysia Duckler Gallery, Portland, OR  
"Topsy Turvy," Hawk Gallery, Columbus, OH  
"Nancy Callan," Installation, The Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA  
2004 "Objects of Diversion," William Traver Gallery, Seattle, WA

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2008 "Contemporary Glass: Chihuly and Beyond," New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT  
"Clear Your Mind: Contemporary Glass Invitational," Figge Museum, Davenport, IA  
"Homage to a Maestro," The Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA  
2007 "Ongoing Invention," The Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum, San Bernadino, CA  
"Behind Glass: Creativity and Collaboration," The Arts Center, St. Petersburg, FL  
"Summer Exhibition," Holsten Gallery, Stockbridge, MA  
2006 "Seattle Artists Exhibition," D&A Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA  
"Burning Ideas: Contemporary Visions in Glass," The River Tree Center for the Arts, Kennebunk, ME  
"Made at the Museum," The Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA  
2005 "Contemporary Glass," Missoula Art Museum, Missoula, MO  
2004 "The Italian Influence in Contemporary Glass," Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY

### Awards

- 2008 Artist in Residence, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
2005 Artist in Residence, Center College, Danville, Kentucky  
2004 Artist in Residence, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA  
2003 King County Special Projects Grant, King County, WA  
2001 Creative Glass Center of America Fellowship, Millville, NJ  
1996 Corning Glass Studio Scholarship, Corning, NY

### Public Collections

- Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA  
Wheaton Village Museum of Glass, Millville, NJ  
Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY



<http://www.NancyCallanGlass.com>

*Flight of the Lobster* 2008 27" x 12" x 8" Blown and Etched Glass



Detail: *Red Webbed Claw* 2008 19" x 12" x 5" Blown Glass