

# Contemporary Canadian Glass

Magazine of the Glass Art Association of Canada

## Introducing The Terminal City Glass Co-op

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By: [Larissa Blokhuis](#)

In Vancouver, this year has started off with a bang for the glass community. On January 5, 2012, members of the glass community were invited to a launch party and meeting with [Terminal City Glass Co-op](#). Holly Cruise, Joanne Andrighetti, Jeff Holmwood, and Morley Faber are at the helm of this new Co-op, located at 1191 Parker Street in the Mergatroid building in east Vancouver.

*An interview with Holly Cruise, of Terminal City Glass Co-op in Vancouver:*

**Q: How did the Co-op come about? Who approached whom?**

A: Initially, Morley Faber invited the glass community to a meeting to discuss the prospect of building a Co-operative studio in Vancouver. He had a bunch of equipment and was interested in hearing the level of interest in bringing glass back to the artist's studio building that he owns and manages. He's also a real advocate for the Co-operative model. About a year later, Morley and I got together to discuss his ideas and worked together on creating a framework for the Co-op. Then we brought Joanne Andrighetti and Jeff Holmwood into the project. And now Naoko Takenouchi is also working with us to develop the sandblasting studio and cold shop. We also have almost 30 members so far

**Q: What kinds of classes will be available and how does registration work? What equipment will be available for Co-op members?**

A: Right now we are offering beginner classes in glassblowing and flameworking, with some micro-coldworking classes and a sandblasting class coming up this summer. We are still developing our education department, and we will be offering more advanced classes as we grow. Approved Co-op members will have access to flameworking, hot shop, coldworking and sandblasting equipment. All of our classes are on the [website](#), and our schedule for the studio will be available for booking online soon. We are also looking forward to partnering with educational institutions to offer courses as part of their arts education program.



Title: Boro Annealer Photo credit: Larissa Blokhuis Caption: Annealer for flameworking classes.

**Q: What do you hope to personally achieve through the Co-op?**

A: Our vision for the Co-op is to build a centre for glass arts, a place where amazing work is being made, and where students and the community can learn all about our fascinating medium. I really look forward to the collaborative creativity and artistic growth that will happen in the Co-op. I really feel like we are building a future for glass arts in Vancouver, and that is pretty special!

**Q: What type of influence do you want Co-op members to have on the glass / art community?**

A: I hope the Co-op will help the glass community grow and become stronger and lead to a more considerable impact in the Vancouver arts landscape.

**Q: Describe some of the lucky events and goodwill that has been directed toward the Co-op.**

A: From the beginning we have been super lucky. When we first set out to set up the Co-op, we consulted with the [British Columbia Co-operative Association](#) and they gave us the gift of a Co-operative incorporation rules writer, Melanie Conn. People in the glass community have been incredibly generous including [Bocci](#), who generously donated the materials for our furnace, which was a huge expense. Also, [Nortel Mfg.](#) donated six torches to our flameworking shop. And really, we have [Morley](#) to thank for about \$40,000 worth of equipment. There's way too much goodwill to list here and it's really made us all feel great about the project. So far, the studio has been built almost entirely on volunteer hours. People are really committed to seeing the Co-op built and operational. I can't even begin to list everyone who has helped, but their help has been instrumental to the progress we have made.

**Q: Talk about the history of the neighbourhood where the studio is located. It's a great place to connect with artists working in different mediums.**

A: [Strathcona](#) is a really amazing neighbourhood, and of course we are at the epicentre of the [Eastside Culture Crawl](#), a yearly event that brings thousands of people into the neighbourhood for an artist's open house weekend. This neighbourhood is filled with artists, and our building houses a wood Co-op and a ceramics Co-op, both built by Morley, as well as textile artists, painters, weavers, ceramicists, a youth Co-op, a specialty artist's paint manufacturer and more.

**Q: What do you want people to know about the Co-op?**

A: Being part of a Co-op is owning a small part of the business, so all of our members own shares in the company. As well, we are a non-profit Co-op, so all of our profit goes right back into the studio, whether this means we buy new equipment, or reduce the rental rates. It's really a great model for a business where we want to share a resource.

**Q: If someone is interested in donating, what is the procedure?**

A: Call us! Email us! Look at the wish list on our [website](#).

Some brief information about our founding members:

**Holly Cruise** has been working with glass since 1995. She first apprenticed at [UrbanGlass](#) in New York. After two years, she re-located to New Orleans, Louisiana, to work in production. Her last move in 1999 brought her to Vancouver, where she has been actively involved in the community through the [BCGAA](#) and various other organisations.

**Joanne Andrighetti** is a well-established name in BC glass. She has owned her own glassblowing studio, and her flameworking studio has been incorporated into the Co-op. Joanne has extensive experience as a glass teacher and supply shop owner. Her shop continues to run adjacent to the Co-op providing the same easy access to supplies that was enjoyed at her previous location.



Title: Boro Rods Photo credit: Larissa Blokhuis Caption: A portion of the supply available in Joanne's shop.

**Jeff Holmwood** began his BFA in glassblowing in 1990, and has gone on to own his own studio. Originally located in Edmonton, his shop has since moved to Vancouver to serve as the production studio for Bocci. Jeff developed a community for his Edmonton studio by teaching others, and has taught extensively at various locations including [ACAD](#), [Red Deer](#), [Pilchuck](#), and [Penland](#).



Title: Hot shop Builder Photo credit: Larissa Blokhuis Caption: Jeff Holmwood mugs in front of the hot shop he is building.

**Morley Faber** is one of the few non-glassblowers among us, but his contribution to the Co-op has been vital. He is part owner and building manager of the Mergatroid building. Morley has assisted in the development of other successful Co-ops located in the Mergatroid. He has donated several pieces of equipment kept in storage from the defunct Joe Blow studio.

Volunteers and new members have performed admirably, transforming the space into a fresh-looking studio in a short amount of time. The glass community of Vancouver has united to create an open membership, non-profit studio; offering glassblowing, flameworking, coldworking, and sandblasting. Flameworking classes began in May, followed by glassblowing classes in June. If you're in Vancouver, we invite you to come check us out!

*Larissa Blokhuis attended ACAD and graduated with a major in glassblowing in 2008. She currently works at New-Small and Sterling, where she blows glass weekly. Larissa has also attended Red Deer College in 2007 and Pilchuck in 2011. She looks forward to developing further as a glassblower and gaining more*

exhibition experience. [blokhuisglass.weebly.com](http://blokhuisglass.weebly.com).



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