

Outlaw Glass

organized by **David Bienenstock**

March 30 - May 27, 2017

Opening reception:

Wednesday, March 29: 6-8 pm

291 Church Street, New York 10013

As cannabis legalization takes root and spreads, much of the media discussion surrounding this societal sea-change has focused on the economics or the politics involved. But how will ending the War on Weed transform us culturally?

The hottest hot take seems to be “marijuana is going mainstream,” an analysis that rather snobbishly presumes this cultural exchange will be a one-way street. So to better understand what authentic underground cannabis culture has to offer, *Outlaw Glass* examines work from leading “functional” glass artists and traces the history of this legally grey art form through its birth, the coordinated arrests of some of its leading practitioners, and on into a new golden age of increasing acceptance, and incredibly advanced works. For just as author Michael Pollan once described black market cannabis growers as “the best gardeners of my generation,” the most exciting movement in art glass today comes from those creating innovative, high-end artifacts that just happen to double as tools for getting high.



Bob Snodgrass, photo by Aaron Kampfer 2001

Featured artist Bob Snodgrass pioneered the craft, building his legend by selling one-of-a-kind hand-blown glass pipes outside Grateful Dead concerts as the band endlessly toured the country. When Snodgrass finally settled down in Eugene, Oregon, in the 1990s, hordes of young artists flocked there to learn the craft and trade knowledge. Today, this new generation of practitioners pushes the art form to previously unimagined new heights.

Outlaw Glass will display major works from leading contemporary frameworkers, plus multimedia examinations of these artists’ lives, and the sub rosa subculture that supports them.

In addition to historic and aesthetic pipes, several notable glass designers will also be invited to round out the exhibition and show new developments in pipe making. Pipes made at a “mostly for fun” competition held in collaboration with and at Brooklyn Glass, juried by David Bienenstock, will also be featured.

David Bienenstock is the author of *How to Smoke Pot (Properly): A Highbrow Guide to Getting High* (Penguin / Random House - 2016), and *Legalized It!*. Previously he was the Head of Content at *HIGH TIMES* and a columnist, frequent contributor, and video host/producer at *VICE Media*, where he co-produced the series *Bong Appetit*, including viral episodes like *A Gourmet Weed Dinner at Hunter S. Thompson’s House* and *Marijuana Nonna*. A contributor to *VICE*, *VICE News*, *GQ*, *Motherboard*, *Salon*, *Munchies*, the *Guardian*, the *Wirecutter*, and other publications, he has been profiled by *Vanity Fair*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Food & Wine*, *Slate*, *Altnet*, *Mashable*, and elsewhere, while making frequent media appearances, including on CNN, NPR, MSNBC, HBO, and Fox News.

For more information please contact Elizabeth.Larison@apexart.org or visit apexart.org/exhibitions/bienenstock.php

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