

Johnny Jump-Ups Jumping Up at Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass

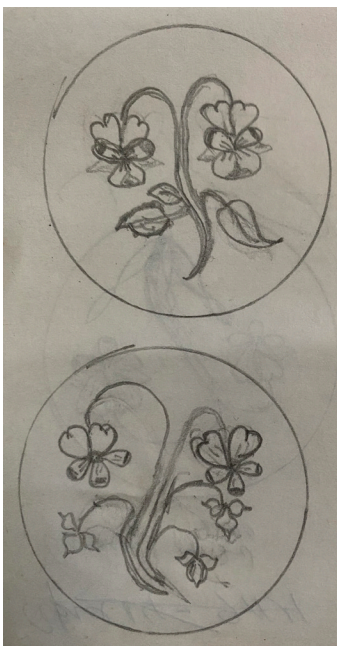
July 8 Lecture by Joan Parsley

American paperweight artist John Parsley (1916-2009) was especially known for his beautifully encased Johnny Jump-Ups. The exquisite NEW ON VIEW exhibition at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass (BMMOG) has just opened and the Parsley Johnny Jump-Up, along with an additional fourteen Parsley weights recently accessioned, is on display once again. In all, the BMMOG has acquired twenty of the mid-twentieth century artist's paperweights.

The exhibition displays more than 200 extraordinary antique and contemporary paperweights and studio art glass works acquired over the last three years. Many of the paperweights were donated by collectors Marge and Gary McClanahan. The well-known couple in the paperweight world was originally from Wisconsin, home to the BMMOG. They were pivotal in the development and funding of the Bergstrom's Mabel R. McClanahan Study Gallery, site of yet another Parsley paperweight which dots the museum collection.

Parsley became acquainted with the Bergstrom-Mahler when he displayed his weights and lectured at the PCA convention in 1989. A scientific glass blower and chemical engineer by profession, Parsley

took up the art of making paperweights after retirement. Much of his time was spent developing his craft at Wheaton Arts. Prior to that, he always had a small glass studio no matter where he and his loving wife, Anne, lived in Michigan, Kentucky, New York City and, finally, Pennsylvania. Anne approved each and every paperweight Parsley took to conventions thereafter.



The Johnny Jump-Up had a certain appeal to Parsley. As a wild pansy, it has been cited in literature through the works of Shakespeare and other writers. It grows as both an annual or short-lived perennial. Parsley grew up with the delicate flower in Kentucky and West Virginia. He planted them by the dozens in his gardens nestled in the Pennsylvania Dutch countryside. The flower in hues of blue, white, yellow and violet, became a hallmark of Parsley's whether designed to stand alone or encased in bouquets with knotweed and primrose in particular.



On July 8, his younger daughter, Joan Parsley, will lecture via Zoom at 6 PM CDT about his work at the BMMOG and life in the Parsley family. Ms. Parsley is director of Great Lakes Paperweights (GLP) and a former president of Midwest Paperweight Collectors. This lecture, hosted by curator Casey Eichhorn, constitutes the fourth in a series of GLP events centered around The John Parsley Legacy Project. You can learn more about the Legacy Project by going to www.greatlakespaperweights.org.

Bergstrom-Mahler's NEW ON VIEW exhibition is free and open to the public until August 22, 2021. The exhibition also includes a number of important works from paperweight artists such as Ken Rosenfeld, Debbie Tarsitano and Peter McDougall as well as American contemporary studio glass artists Lisabeth Sterling, Marvin Lipofsky and Marc Petrovic.

For more information on NEW ON VIEW, please go to www.bmmglass.org

