

w²

P r o l o g u e

There used to be a time, when traveling for several years after completing the apprenticeship as a craftsman was a very common thing to do. Thus, the so-called journeyman years (German *Wanderjahre, Walz*), which root back to medieval times, have an outstanding tradition, especially in Europe. In some areas within the crafts, these years of traveling and collecting professional experience far away from home have even been a prerequisite for being permitted to take the examination for the master craftman's diploma. In modern times, however, the journeyman years have become much less important, which is why their tradition is about to disappear, hence being appointed immaterial cultural heritage in 2015.

When it comes to the craftsmanship of glassblowing, however, a tradition of journeyman years is almost non-existent; in fact, even the opposite is the case: Knowledge was rather kept secret to hide it from competitors. As a result, there was much more a tradition of secretiveness rather than openness. Traveling in order to gain knowledge and to further one's education in different places was a very unusual thing to do. On Murano, for example, there used to be times when prohibitions to leave the island were imposed on the local glassblowers. These times, however, are long gone, especially since the Studio Glass Movement in the 1960s, when knowledge was finally openly shared and spread internationally, creating an ever-growing glass community.

W a l z ²

Driven by the strong desire to improve our skills in glassblowing, to increase our knowledge and experience that we have gained throughout the apprenticeship as glassblowers at the Glass School Zwiesel in Bavaria, we – Pròsper Riba Vilardell and Pia-Christina Hoff – have developed the project W a l z ² and have been working extensively on its realization during the past months.

The goal is to do an extensive educational glass journey across the globe. In other words: we want to establish journeyman years in the field of glassblowing. Hence, the project combines two forms of culture rich in tradition, which are nonetheless disappearing more and more nowadays, most likely dying out in the not too distant future. To counteract, and – above all – to develop further our skills as professional glassblowers, to be exposed to diverse approaches to glass as well as techniques and working methods, we are eager to realize this project.

Out of the period of extensive planning, the project's name finally arose: W a l z ². This does not only imply that we are traveling as a couple; much more we are convinced that it is especially our twin-pair constellation that makes us benefit from the varied experiences and diverse learning situations along our way in a much more effective and sustained way. The square in the project name is supposed to express that we as a duo are going to gain as much knowledge and skills from this





educational journey as possible – in this way, our experiences do not only add up but they multiply, they increase. Not only because we perfectly complement one another (this was especially apparent in the last weeks in which we organized the final steps of *Walz²* even though being apart from each other, one doing an internship in Denmark while the other is finishing the apprenticeship in Bavaria), but even more so since we kick-start this project highly motivated with a concrete plan in mind: not only did we set ourselves definite targets on the world map, but also we pursue the goal of being self-employed glassblowers with our own, internationally recognized hot glass studio. This studio we imagine to be a place where we produce our own works, functional as well as non-functional glass objects, where we teach and spread knowledge about the craftmanship of glassblowing and where interdisciplinary projects come to life, cooperating with artists and designers. In order to qualify for our ambitious future plans, it is crucial to develop further our skills, both craft- and business-wise, and become part of the international glass community.

On this very basis, we did thorough research and carefully chose some of the most professional glass studios across the globe to do intensive internships, each for the duration of one up to three months. The result is a route along which we are

going to visit some of the most important glass centers and work at renowned studios worldwide.

During the last decades, new, highly diverse and exciting paths have opened up within the craft and the art of glass; with the project *Walz²* we are seeking to gain as comprehensive a picture as possible of the current situation in order to – after all – choose our own, individual way towards professionalism and successful self-employment as glass craftsmen and artists.

In the following, we would like to present ourselves as well as some chosen works before further clarifying our project *Walz²* and its route.

Prosp^{er} Riba Vilardell

EDUCATION//

Apprenticeship as glassblower since 2017
@ Glass School, Zwiesel

2019

Higher education in industrial modeling and product design
@ La Massana, Barcelona, Spain

2015

Art high school
@ La Massana, Barcelona, Spain

2012

EXPERIENCE//

Assistant of Rike Scholle
@ Glashütte Eisch, Frauenau, Germany

2018

Assistant of Wilfried Markus
@ Glashütte Eisch, Frauenau, Germany

2018

Residency
@ Glashütte Eisch, Frauenau, Germany

2018

Assistant of De la Torre Brothers
@ Glashütte Eisch, Frauenau, Germany

2018

Hot shop coordinator
@ Bild-Werk Frauenau e.V., Germany

2018

Glassblowing for tourism
@ Schott - Zwiesel Kristallglas AG, Zwiesel, Germany

2018

Assistant of Torsten Röttsch
@ Bildwerk, Frauenau, Germany

2018

Glassblowing assistant for Glasgemacht for Karina Wendt
@ Wilfried Markus Studio, Rheinfelden, Germany - Switzerland

2017

Assistant at Glasgemacht for Bocci, lamp production 57
@ Cristallica, Döbern, Germany

2017

Assistant and digital department
@ Glassworks Matteo Gonet GmbH, Basel, Switzerland

2016

Hot glass course
@ Glasmuseum von Vimbodí, Vimbodí, Spain

2015

Hot glass course
@ Franz Winkelkotte Studio, Holperdorp, Germany

2015

EXHIBITIONS//

"GAS Student Exhibition: A Showcase of Emerging International Talent"
@ Morean Arts Center, St. Petersburg, Florida (US)

2019

"Zwiesler Buntspecht"
@ Zwiesel, Germany

2018

"Glas unter freiem Himmel"
@ Eisch Gallery, Frauenau, Germany

2018

AWARDS//

3RD Prize „Danner-Wettbewerb“
@ Glasfachschule Zwiesel, Germany

2019



Horizon of Vibrant Collapse, 2018



Matriu, the three states of matter, 2016



Republican Proud, 2017



Don Quijote, 2018

Pia - Christina Hoff

EDUCATION//

- Apprentice as glassblower @ Glass School Zwiesel, Germany 2019
- Master of Education (M. Ed.) in English and American Studies and Art @ Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany 2016
- Master's thesis: „The Material Glass in Arts in the 1960s: Paths of Emancipation“
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English and American Studies and Art @ Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany 2015
- Kunststudium @ Ball State University, Muncie, USA 2014

EXPERIENCE//

- Assistant @ Möhl & Drivsholm Glas, Ebeltoft, Denmark 2019
- „Building a Roman furnace“ with Francois Arnaud and Frank Wiesenberg @ 1ST International Glass Symposium, Glass School Rheinbach, Germany 2018
- Artist Residency @ Glashütte Eisch, Frauenau, Germany 2018
- Teaching Assistant of Rike Scholle in the hot glass course “Hot Structures” @ Bild-Werk Frauenau e.V., Germany 2018
- Interdisciplinary hot glass course with John Moran und James Labold @ Bild-Werk Frauenau e.V., Germany 2017
- Hot glass course „Multiples in Hot Glass“ with Stephen Dee Edwards, @ Bild-Werk Frauenau e.V., Germany 2014

EXHIBITIONS//

- „Vorsicht Glas!“ @ Galerie Packschuppen, Baruth, Germany 2019
- Solo exhibition „Pia Hoff - Mundgeblasene Unikate“ @ takt.bar, Witten, Germany 2019
- „Zwieseler Buntspecht“, @ Zwiesel, Germany 2018
- „WHO IS IT - Junge Experimentelle Glaskunst“ @ Mistelbacher GLAS.tage 2018, Mistelbach, Austria 2018
- „Zwieseler Buntspecht“, @ Zwiesel, Germany 2017
- „Bild-Werk Frauenau @ 30: Mit den Händen denken lernen“ @ Galerie am Museum, Frauenau, Germany 2017
- „Neo Natural: Botanically Inspired Art Works“ @ Garfield Park Conservatory and Sunken Gardens, Indiana, USA 2014

AWARDS//

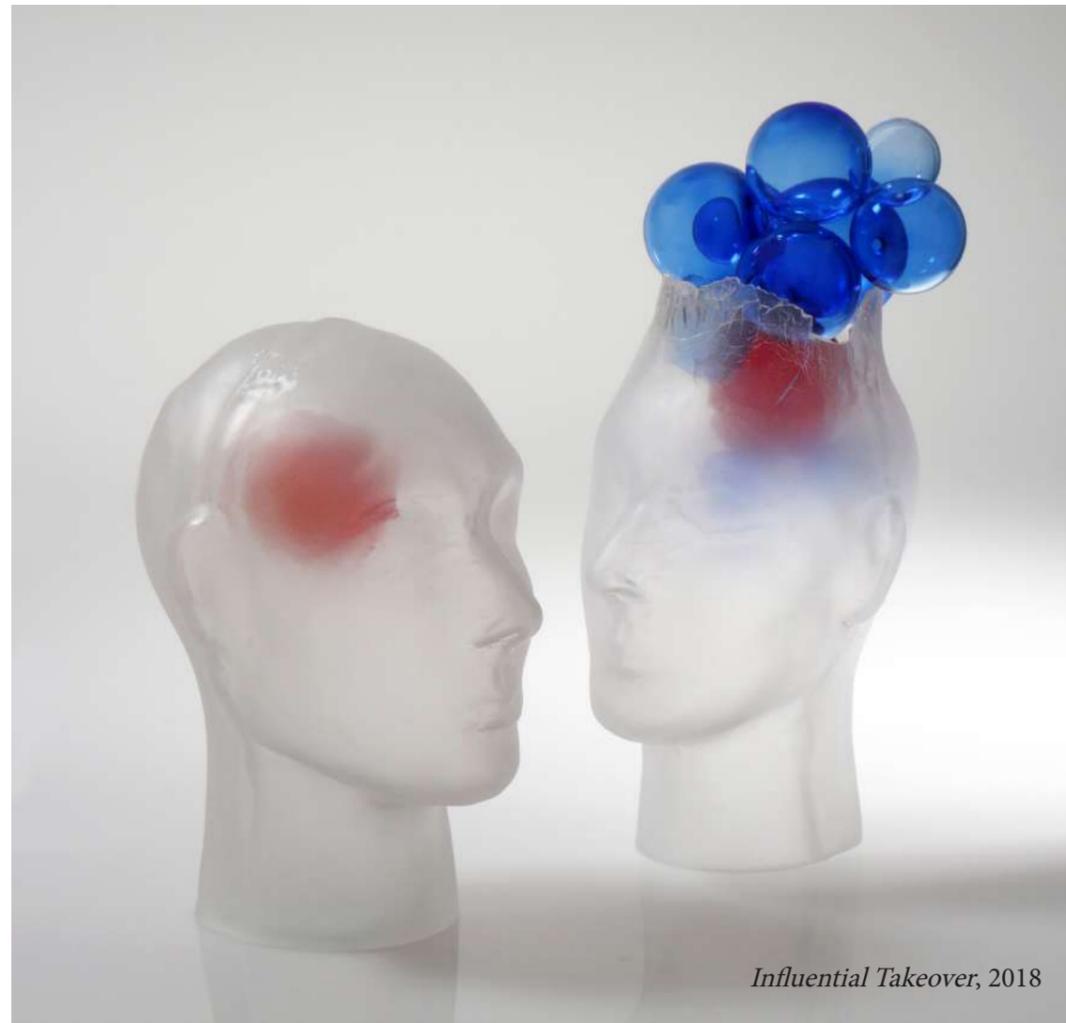
- 2ND Prize „Danner-Wettbewerb“ @ Glasfachschule Zwiesel, Germany 2018
- 2ND Prize „Danner-Wettbewerb“ @ Glasfachschule Zwiesel, Germany 2017



Anemones, 2018



Antagonisma, 2019

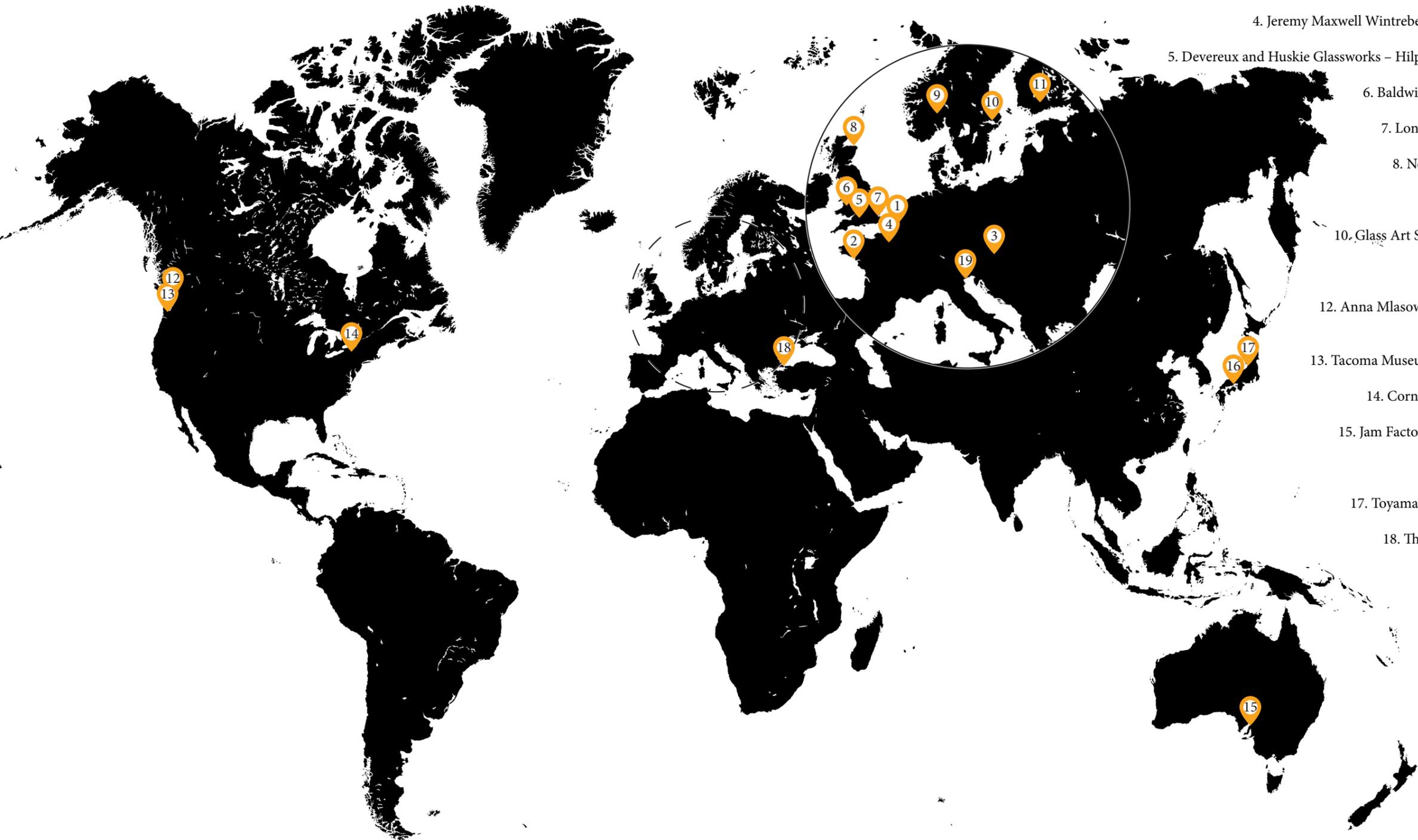


Influential Takeover, 2018



Flat-Stacks, 2019

R o u t e



1. Gent Glas – Gent, Belgium, *September 2019*
2. Fluid – Belle-Île-en-Mer, France, *September - November 2019*
3. Glashütte Comploj, Wien, Austria - *January 2020*
4. Jeremy Maxwell Wintrebert – Paris, France, *December 2019 - January 2020*
5. Devereux and Huskie Glassworks – Hilperton, Wiltshire, England, *February - March 2020*
6. Baldwin & Guggisberg – Hares Green, Wales, *April 2020*
7. London Glassblowing – London, England, *April 2020*
8. Northlands Creative – Lybster, Scotland, *April 2020*
9. Klart Glass – Tjura, Norway, *April - Juni 2020*
10. Glass Art Society Conference – Småland, Sweden, *May 2020*
11. Lasismi – Riihimäki, Finland, *June 2020*
12. Anna Mlasowsky & Matthew Szösz Studio – Seattle, WA, USA, *August - September 2020*
13. Tacoma Museum of Glass – Tacoma, WA, USA, *September 2020*
14. Corning Museum of Glass – New York, USA, *Fall 2020*
15. Jam Factory – South Yarra, Victoria, Australia, *Spring 2021*
16. Studio Fresco – Osaka, Japan, *Spring 2021*
17. Toyama Glass Art Museum – Toyama, Japan, *Spring 2021*
18. The Glass Furnace – Istanbul, Turkey, *Summer 2021*
19. Murano – Italy, *Summer 2021*

Epilogue

With the period of intensive planning and organization, what was initially the desire to develop further our skills as craftsmen has finally developed into a tangible plan – the project Walz² came into being. Most importantly, though, it is ready to be kick-started: The route is laid out with its most important stops for the coming two years and the internships are agreed-upon with the glass studios – and we are awaiting the journey with a lot of motivation and excitement.

Moreover, we are extremely delighted about the openness of the many glass blowers and artists who sent their positive replies and offered the two of us to stay and learn with them. However, as journeymen, we do not earn any money along the way, as we are doing the trip in order to learn. Even though some studios offer free housing along with sharing their knowledge, we are facing high travel and living expenses which we are unable to fully cover so far.

The first year of our project is financially supported through an Erasmus scholarship; however we are yet unable to finance the whole journey which is why we are dependent on sponsors for the project's realization. For donations please follow the link:

<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8gJehjTEY3>



Walz²

MoneyPool: <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8gJehjTEY3>

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2019