

JamFactory Icon 2015—

## Giles Bettison: pattern and perception

20 February to 8 May 2016

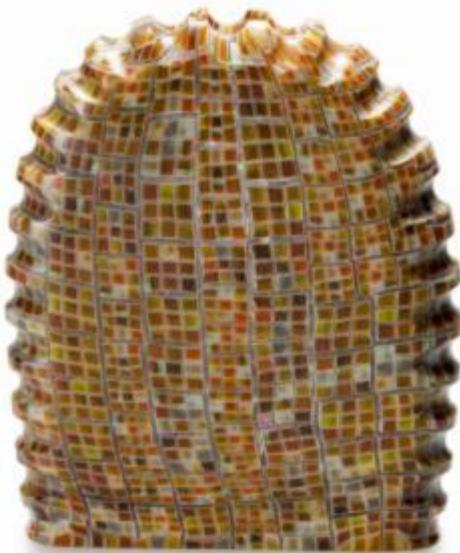
Geelong Gallery is delighted to present the JamFactory solo exhibition ***Giles Bettison: pattern and perception***, showcasing the internationally renowned Australian artist's skills as a master of contemporary *murrine* glass. Bringing together 33 of Bettison's works, and accompanied by the recently released monograph of the same name by Margot Osborne, ***Giles Bettison: pattern and perception*** is curated by Margaret Hancock Davis and is the third in the annual JamFactory Icon series of touring exhibitions, celebrating South Australia's outstanding and influential craft and design practitioners.

Giles Bettison's exquisitely detailed work transforms the ancient mosaic glass technique primarily associated with traditional Venetian glass-blowers on the island of Murano, with his kiln-worked and blown forms incorporating radically complex patterns in subtle chromatic registers. The artist's works reference the intricate micro patterns of woven textiles, and in contrast, the macro patterns of aerial vistas of landscapes, exploring themes of connection, beauty, perception and place.

*My work is an exploration of my movement through life manifest in colours, patterns and forms. — Giles Bettison* ('Giles Bettison: Pattern and Perception' by Margot Osborne, Wakefield Press, 2015)

Bettison started experimenting with *murrine* as a student in the mid-1990s, and his technical and artistic innovations breathe new life into the traditional Venetian technique of making patterned glass, at that time rarely seen in contemporary studio glass. The esteemed British glass expert Dan Klein identified Bettison as "one of the great practitioners of today" and has commented that Bettison "more or less reinvented the ancient Venetian tradition of incorporating murrine into a glass vessel."





#### Captions -

##### 1. Giles Bettison, *Textile #2* 2015

cold assembled, hot worked murrine, blown with ground finish

26.0 x 17.0 cm

Reproduced courtesy of the artist

##### 2. Giles Bettison, *Chroma #2* 2015

cold assembled, hot worked murrine, blown with ground finish

23.5 x 19.5 cm

Reproduced courtesy of the artist

##### 3. Giles Bettison, *Textile #4* 2015

cold assembled, hot worked murrine, blown with ground finish

27.0 x 20.0 cm

Reproduced courtesy of the artist

##### 4. Giles Bettison, *Notch #3* 2015

cold assembled, hot worked murrine, hot formed, carved with ground finish

27.0 x 23.0 x 6.5 cm

Reproduced courtesy of the artist

During his studies at the Glass Workshop established by noted German glass artist Klaus Moje and under the enlightened direction of British glass artist Stephen Procter at the Canberra School of Art, Australian National University, Bettison learnt how to make *murrine* from sheet glass and pioneered a technique of using flat sheets of kiln-compatible coloured glass as the basis for creating a wondrous spectrum of modulated colour combinations and patterns. In *murrine*, Bettison uncovered an abstract glass language of intricate pattern, colour and complexity in which he could visualise his perceptions of beauty in everyday life.

Identified as the JamFactory Icon for 2015, Bettison has received a number of prestigious awards, and has work in leading collections including the Museum of Craft and Design in New York City; the National Gallery of Australia; the National Gallery of Victoria; the Powerhouse Museum; the Geelong Gallery; and numerous private collections.

JamFactory Icon 2015—*Giles Bettison: pattern and perception* will be exhibited at Geelong Gallery from Saturday 20 February to Sunday 8 May 2016.

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