



NEWS RELEASE

Bloom!: The Glass Artistry of Craig Mitchell Smith

32 Larger-than-Life Glass Sculptures on Display

April 27, 2015 – Akron, Ohio – Stan Hywet presents **Bloom!** June 2 - September 20, a display throughout the gardens of 32 larger-than-life glass installations by noted glass artist Craig Mitchell Smith. A special evening tour, **Twilight & Flashlights** takes place from 7-11pm on August 21, 22, 27, 28, and September 3, 4. Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is located at 714 North Portage Path, Akron, Ohio.

Smith's stunning glass sculptures are created using kiln-formed glass. With a background as a painter, Smith has developed many techniques that emulate brush strokes in the creation of a piece, which he describes "painting with glass." "I see the bottom of the kiln as a canvas. I imagine a source of wind —just as a painter imagines a source of light," notes Smith.

Many of the installations are inspired by Stan Hywet. For example, *Tudor Rose* will be installed in Breakfast Room Garden and *Butterflies of Northern Ohio* features a kaleidoscope of local (glass) butterflies near the Butterfly Habitat. All glass sculptures in the exhibit are for sale, and large pieces will be installed by Craig Mitchell Smith at the end of the show as part of the purchase price. The Craig Mitchell Smith Gallery adjacent to Admissions features additional glass sculptures for inside the home, available for purchase.

Twilight & Flashlights, are special evening garden tours from 7-11pm on August 21, 22, 27, 28 and September 3 and 4. The stunning glass sculptures in Bloom! will be dramatically up-lit throughout the property. The evening includes self-guided tours of the first floor of the Manor House, and live music in the Courtyard and on the West Terrace. Delectable savory "small bites," desserts, wine and beer will be available for purchase. Tickets for Twilight & Flashlights are \$16, adult; \$8, youth (ages 6-17), children 5 & under are free. Stan Hywet member prices are available. Tickets may be purchased at stanhywet.org or at 330-315-3287.

Bloom! is presented with support from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation.

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—Bio of Craig Mitchell Smith on next page—

About Craig Mitchell Smith

A proud Michigan native and resident of Lansing Michigan, Craig Mitchell Smith has been creating kiln formed glass art since 2006.

He is a painter, floral designer and set-designer with a mindset rooted in nature — skills which have informed and enhanced his kiln-formed glass pieces. Craig discovered he could “paint” with glass at a single class in fused glass at Delphi Glass in Lansing. After HGTV inquired about one of his early experimental pieces, he set purchased a kiln and creating glass pieces, transforming his basement into a studio just in time for the videotaping.

Craig’s unique approach to kiln-formed glass combines fusing, ingenious texturing, slumping and cold working to create the pieces he displays. His work has appeared in gallery shows and he received the first Individual Arts Grant from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. His work has been on display throughout the U.S. including the Cooley Gardens (Lansing, Michigan), Michigan State University, Dow Gardens (Midland, MI), Epcot Center at Disney World, Norfolk (Virginia) Botanical Gardens and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum among others. He recently expanded his Michigan studio and production facility to accommodate the growing interest in his work. For more information, visit craigmitchellsmith.com.