

Edwards to be visiting scholar at Osaka University for the Arts

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Stephen D. Edwards, professor of glass art in the School of Art & Design at Alfred University, will be a visiting scholar at Osaka University for the Arts for three months, beginning in May. "I will be working and teaching with world-renowned glass artist Hiroshi Yamano and four other teachers in the largest university glass art program in the world," said Edwards. He explained that Osaka University is a private university dedicated to traditional and contemporary art. It is located in Osaka, which is Japan's second-largest city. A professor in the School of Art & Design, part of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, since 1988, Edwards is himself internationally acclaimed for his work, which features large pieces of cast glass that have been cut and polished. Edwards received the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2006. In nominating him for the prestigious award, the New York State College of Ceramics Faculty Council called him a "rarity an excellent teaching professional artist" who has "grown and further excelled both in studio and academic life" during his time at Alfred University. "The time demands for remaining a very active, vibrant professional artist while remaining vigilant to the needs of his students are extraordinary, but Steve was not content to maintain the status quo. Trained primarily as a glass blower, since coming to Alfred he has developed into one of the leading scholars and practicing professionals in the areas of glass casting and fabrication." He was credited with "rejuvenating and invigorating our glass sculpture program, reestablishing it as the clear leader in the field." In addition to his teaching, Edwards has continued to show his own work nationally and internationally. His work is found in the permanent collections of museums around the world, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Washington, DC; the Tittot Glass Art Museum, Taiwan; the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany; the Cevidar Museum, Valencia, Spain; the Corning Glass Museum, Corning, NY; the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo, Japan; Glasmuseum Ebeltoft, Ebeltoft, Denmark; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Lusanne, Switzerland; Yokohama Museum, Yokohama, Japan; and the Sklarske Museum, Nový Bor, Czech Republic, as well as other major collections. Edwards became a full professor in 1996. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Jose State, and his Master of Fine Arts degree from Illinois State University. He served as president of the Board of Directors of the Glass Art Society, 1990-91.