

Cohen Gallery features work by glass artists

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"A Matter of Form," an exhibition of work by Kathleen Mulcahy '74 MFA and Ron Desmett, will open at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Cohen Center Gallery, 55 N. Main St., Alfred. Mulcahy and Desmett, glass artists from Oakdale, PA, will present a gallery talk at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the AU campus. The show continues through Oct. 16, with hours by appointment. For more information, contact Kevin Jacobs at jacobsj@alfred.edu. For Mulcahy, it is a return to her alma mater; she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from the School of Art & Design at Alfred University in 1974. For the past 15 years, Mulcahy and Desmett has worked as independent artists on projects for installations in private glass collections, homes, corporate offices, public art projects and solo exhibitions throughout the United States. They are recipients of several awards, including those from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Mid-Atlantic Art Foundation and the Fulbright Foundation. Prior to that, Mulcahy and Desmett developed and helped build the Pittsburgh Glass Center, an internationally recognized public access glass institution. They remain active as members of the Artistic Leadership Team, and have been named Permanent Artists-in-Residence at the Center. Earlier this year, their collaborative work, Crossings 1982, was acquired by the Renwick Galleries at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Mulcahy, who earned a B.A. in arts education at Kean University in Union, NJ, before entering the master's program at Alfred University, was named a "distinguished alumna in the arts" by Kean Alumni Association in 2005. She is a member of the International Women's Forum and was honored as being one of the "Women in the Arts: 36 Founders, Pioneers, Instigators," in Pittsburgh in 2007. Her work is found in many private and public collections, including those at the American Craft Museum, New York and The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY. A graduate of the University of Akron (OH) with a B.S. in art education, Desmett earned an MFA in sculpture from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. A painter and mixed media artist as well as a glass artist, Desmett has work in the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; the Cleveland (OH) Museum of Art and the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution. He has received several fellowships from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and a Masterwork Fellowship from the Creative Glass Center of America, Millville, NJ. The Cohen Center was created by the generous gifts of Michele and Martin Cohen, parents of Adam Cohen, who earned a BFA from the School of Art & Design at Alfred University in 2003. The School of Art & Design at Alfred University is one of top-ranked in the country. Its MFA in ceramic art is ranked first in the nation, and its MFA in glass art is tied for second in the nation by US News and World Report.