

JEFF ZIMMER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact:

Jeff Zimmer
2F1 19 Albion Place, Edinburgh EH7 5QS, UK
+44(0)791 639 4858
kickinglass@yahoo.com
www.jeffzimmer.com
'Jeff Zimmer Glass' on Facebook

American Artist Jeff Zimmer Returns from Scotland for First Exhibition in US *Whitewash* Series Explores Individual and National Guilt

Edinburgh, UK - 25 October 2011: Edinburgh-based American artist Jeff Zimmer is returning to the United States for his first solo exhibition.

Zimmer will be exhibiting as part of the CraftScotland delegation at Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, USA, 10 – 13 November 2011.

About the Work: In his work, Zimmer uses darkness and light to explore issues of certainty, doubt, guilt and innocence. In a polarized political and social atmosphere he views ambiguous subject matter and visual presentation as political acts. His work is usually political but not polemical; instead he hopes to provoke both a meditation on a theme and a sensual experience of light.

Zimmer's new body of work for this exhibition, *Whitewash*, depicts a series of landscapes, both urban and rural, American and Scottish, under a blanket of snow. The snow is a metaphor for the way we, as individuals and nations, 'whitewash' our pasts. The luminous, internally illuminated landscapes, placed in thick frames, contrast the untrammelled snow with the barely-concealed debris that remains, only partially hidden from view.

Each piece is titled *We Were All Wrong*, a quote from former weapons inspector David Kay's testimony to the US Senate regarding the justifications for the invasion of Iraq.

Zimmer uses traditional techniques involving glass paints, enamels and stains, hand-painted on multiple layers of glass (between 8 and 19 layers in these works), fired onto the glass in a kiln at 560°C/1040°F in a complicated sequence, which usually requires multiple firings for each layer. Once the painting is done, he arranges and frames the layers in a lightbox so that a 3-D image is created. Elements of the composition appear to move as they shift in relation to one another and to the internal light with the movement of the viewer.

Background on the Artist: In 2004, Zimmer moved from his hometown of Washington, DC, where he'd worked from the noted studios of the Washington Glass School, to study painting on glass at the Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland.

"I knew I wanted to get a Masters Degree focussing on painting on glass, but was unable to find a program in the U.S. that had the staff or facilities that could support the medium. A couple of notable glass departments, once they heard that I was interested in painting on glass, told me to not even bother applying – without having even taken a glance at my portfolio. Fortunately, at the Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) Glass Department I found a program and tutors that could support and challenge me."

Zimmer graduated with his Masters in 2005. By this time, he'd been offered both an Artist-in-Residence position in the Glass Department and part time work teaching adult education courses at ECA, where he continues to teach.

JEFF ZIMMER

Since then, Zimmer has earned an array of accolades for his work, including:

- being selected in two consecutive years to appear as one of only 100 artists internationally in *New Glass Review*, the annual survey of glass (2009 & 2010);
- being selected for two British Glass Biennales (2008 & 2010), including being singled out for special commendation by the judges in 2010;
- representing 'British Glass' in the exhibition "50 Years of British Studio Glass" currently running at the European Museum of Modern Glass in Germany;
- having work accepted into the permanent collections of the Glasmuseet Ebeltoft (Denmark) and North Lands Creative Glass (Scotland);
- appearing in exhibitions at the Broadfield House Glass Museum (England) and the Perth Museum and Art Gallery (Scotland);
- appearing in the major international glass publications *Neues Glas/New Glass* (Germany), *Glass Quarterly* (USA), *Craft Art International* (Australia), and *Glashaas* Germany).

In addition, he led an International Masterclass at Bild-Werk Frauenau (Germany), and assisted leading artists Cappy Thompson at North Lands Creative Glass and Scott Chaseling at Bild-Werk.

After a seven-year absence from exhibiting in the US, Zimmer exhibited a piece at the Washington Glass School's 10th Anniversary exhibition at the Longview Gallery in Washington, DC, in May. *Washington Post* critic Michael O'Sullivan described Zimmer's contribution:

One of the quietest, least assuming works in the show is *Fog of Communication III* by Jeff Zimmer. A moody, fog-bound landscape, it's also mounted on a light box, and features multiple, sandwiched layers of sandblasted and enamelled glass to create something halfway between a vintage black-and-white photo and a 3D shoebox diorama. It isn't especially pretty, or even eye-catching. But it catches -- and fires up -- something else. And that's the imagination.

On Being an American Representing Scotland in America: "I'm incredibly fond of my old hometown, Washington, DC, and I miss my friends, my old neighborhood, my family – and the weather. But, I've received so much support in Scotland, and, because so much of my creative development has taken place here, I am in many ways also now a 'Scottish' artist. I also want to start to open the eyes of American educational establishments to what they're cutting themselves off from by not valuing painters on glass and architectural glass – which have a vibrant and continuing tradition in the UK and Europe."

About the Exhibition: Zimmer will be exhibiting solo as part of a 25-strong contingent of artists and makers coordinated by CraftScotland at the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show, billed as a "premier show and sale of contemporary craft, includ[ing] 195 of the finest and most dynamic craft artists in the United States, selected from more than 1,400 applicants." Each year, the Show invites makers from one country to feature as 'Invited Guest Nation.' Based on the strength of their "The 'C' Word" campaign, Craft Scotland was invited by the PMA Craft Show for 2011.

Now in its 35th year, the Philadelphia Museum of Art Craft Show takes place from 10 – 13 November 2011.

###

JEFF ZIMMER

Whitewash Series IMAGE LIST



We Were All Wrong (The House on the Hill)
Layers of enameled and sandblasted glass in
lightbox
46.5w x 36.5h x 16d cm
18 x 14 x 6"
2011



We Were All Wrong (The Rail Bridge)
Layers of enameled and sandblasted glass in
lightbox
33.5w x 28h x 13d cm
13 x 11 x 5"
2011



We Were All Wrong (The Meeting Place)
Layers of enameled and sandblasted glass in
lightbox
61w x 51.5 h x 17d cm
24 x 20 x 7"
2011



We Were All Wrong (The Home of my Father)
Layers of enameled and sandblasted glass in
lightbox
64w x 56.5 h x 18d cm
25 x 22 x 7"
2011

###