

# Lisa L. Naas, PhD

*Arts Leader, Creative Practitioner, Educator, Innovator*  
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United States

- ✉ **Experienced arts and community leader** comfortable overseeing and collaborating with diverse groups of people
- ✉ **Skilled gallery director** with a record of successful, perspective-shifting programming and public engagement
- ✉ **Adept arts educator** enabling inclusivity and accessibility, while maintaining a holistic teaching philosophy
- ✉ **Creative practitioner** working in glass at the intersection of genres and media; exhibiting internationally
- ✉ **Interdisciplinary researcher** of ideation and creativity; PhD thesis submitted/accepted as ‘post-studio glass’
- ✉ **Innovator** whose creative doctoral dissertation challenges traditional assumptions of the thesis format
- ✉ **Inventor, designer** of a technique to facilitate creative ideation for university art and design students
- ✉ **Accomplished arts manager** with experience in operations, fundraising, marketing, communications, planning

## Education.....

- ✉ **PhD (2022)** Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, UK
- ✉ **MFA, Glass (With Distinction 2015)** Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, UK
- ✉ **MEd (2000)** Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- ✉ **BA (Studio Art/Art History, cum laude 1996)** Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, USA

## Key Leadership Roles in Creative, Cultural, and Educational Organizations.....

### **Executive Director: Newburyport Art (NAA), Newburyport, Massachusetts 2021–2024**

- ✉ Directed artistic and educational programming for 500+ paying members as well as the regional communities/schools
- ✉ Key achievements: partnered with Peabody Essex Museum curator to host NAA’s first National Juried Show (2024), established an annual Arts Symposium (2024), designed and curated *Glass Perspectives*—NAA’s first international show (2022); directed most successful Art Auction & Party in NAA history (2022); spearheaded *NBPT Murals Project*, a city-wide, collaborative initiative to elevate diverse perspectives and engage the community through exterior murals (2021–2024)
- ✉ Led efforts to renovate and maintain the organization’s 260-year-old building with 5 galleries and sculpture garden
- ✉ Led all fundraising/outreach efforts with budget/staff oversight and initiated overdue strategic planning
- ✉ Directed post-Covid rebuilding and re-opening of NAA physical galleries, exhibitions, and educational offerings

### **Initiator & Director: Makers Marks Collaborative, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland 2015–2019**

- ✉ Wrote project and grant proposals to secure a 2015 ‘Ingenious Grant’ from the UK’s Royal Academy of Engineering
- ✉ Recruited and led a diverse, international team of 20 visual artists, sound designers, composers, and engineers in collaboratively creating and executing multi-media art projects based around glass in Edinburgh studios (and remotely)
- ✉ Led the artistic direction and goals of the Collaborative to produce a glass/sound interactive installation, glass objects, a library of recorded audio/virtual instruments, a music composition, 2 films, and a peer-reviewed journal article
- ✉ Curated the artistic works and oversaw logistics and promotion for exhibitions and community engagement events

### **Instructor: Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 2015–2018**

- ✉ Instructed university students in art and design project conception, development, implementation, and exposition
- ✉ Taught arts research and thesis writing to honors undergraduate seniors based in design and screen cultures
- ✉ Taught creative ideation techniques to undergraduate and graduate students across the University

### **Director, Operations & Student Life: Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Boston/Lenox 2008–2014**

- ✉ Directed preparation and operation of a 64-acre campus with 5 dormitories and 7 academic buildings, to support an internationally-renowned, college-credited, classical music summer training program in the Berkshires (Massachusetts)
- ✉ Oversaw a \$750,000 budget, staffing, residential life, student services, and housing for 350 student participants
- ✉ Found, leased, and managed 35+ properties (annually) to relocate/house 100+ faculty/staff and myself for summers
- ✉ Collaborated with university departments and external organizations for mission-driven initiatives to elevate operations

### **Development & Special Events Manager: Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), Boston 2001–2007**

- ✉ Directed the Annual Fund Program and all national special events (public and private) for fundraising purposes

### **Head Coach, NCAA Women’s Fastpitch: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oct 2001–Jul 2006**

- ✉ Held position for 5 years in conjunction with work at the Archaeological Institute of America

## Exhibitions & Performances (Highlights).....

- 2026. (Forthcoming) *Glass Fashion Show*, juried group exhibition presented by Glass Art Society at CMOG, Corning, USA
- 2024. *Catching Fire 2024*, exhibition/auction presented by Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Wisconsin, USA
- 2023. *Extreme Making*, exhibition of the European Academy of Design Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, UK
- 2022. *Glass Perspectives: A Celebration of Glass & Glass Concepts*, group exhibition at Newburyport Art, Massachusetts, USA
- 2021. *Viral Glass*, juried/curated by David McFadden, group exhibition presented virtually by Habatat Galleries, USA
- 2020. *The Black Box Dissertation*, solo exposition of glass creative practice and PhD defense, Edinburgh/Glasgow, UK
- 2019. *Borderline*, juried art performances, slam poetry, and readings, presented by *Inkwell*, Edinburgh UK
- 2018. *Materiality*, juried group exhibition by RAFT research group at Tent Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (catalogue)
- 2017. *Research Through Design Exhibition*, juried group exhibit presented at National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK
- 2017. *Radiophrenia*, broadcast performance of compositions from glass at Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, UK
- 2016. *A Makers Marks Network Event*, exhibition and speaker event presented at Summerhall, Edinburgh, UK
- 2016. *Makers Marks*, group exhibition presented by the Makers Marks Collaborative, Edinburgh, UK
- 2016. *Glasshaus XI*, juried group exhibition, presented at Parndon Mill Gallery, Harlow, UK
- 2016. *ECA Transitions*, juried group exhibition, presented by Glass Department, Edinburgh College of Art, UK (catalogue)
- 2015. *Espacioenter*, juried exhibition by International Festival of Creativity, Innovation & Digital Culture, Canarias, ES
- 2015. *MOVE ME*, film festival presented at Embassy Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2015. *New Designers 2015*, juried group exposition presented at Business Design Centre, London, UK
- 2015. *Degree Show 2015*, culminating Glass Degree exhibition presented at Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK
- 2014–2015. *European Glass Experience (EGE)*, juried, traveling exhibition presented by Culture Program of EU (catalogue)  
 18 April 2015–7 June 2015, The Murano Glass Museum, Venice, IT  
 29 July 2014–15 November 2014, Fundación Centro Nacional del Vidrio, La Granja, ES
- 2014. *International Glass Art Biennial*, juried group exhibition, Kunststichting Perspektief, Haacht, BE (catalogue)
- 2014. *Emerge 2014*, finalist in juried competition; exhibition presented at Bullseye Glass, Oregon, USA (catalogue)
- 2011. *Bibliophoria II: The Art of the Book*, juried group exhibition, presented at Sebastopol Art Center, California, USA
- 2010. *Handle with Care*, juried group glass exhibition, presented at The Foundry Art Centre, Missouri, USA

## Collections.....

- ✎ Murano Glass Museum, Venice, Italy  
*Mourning Lace* (2013, kiln-formed glass) 2014 museum acquisition during European Glass Experience Exhibit
- ✎ Private Collection, USA  
*Minerva* (2022, kiln-formed glass), *Moth* (2022, kiln-formed glass), and *Flight Gesture Pair* (2021, kiln-formed glass), acquired respectively at the 2023, 2022, and 2021 Bergstrom-Mahler Museum Auctions

## Awards.....

- ✎ Principal's Career Development PhD Scholarship & Global Research Scholarship, University of Edinburgh, 2015–2018
- ✎ Ingenious Grant recipient for 'The Glass Whispers Project', Royal Academy of Engineering, 2015–2016
- ✎ New Designer's Glass Prize Runner-Up for *SORROWS* film, Contemporary Glass Society, 2015
- ✎ Andrew Grant Major Award, Edinburgh College of Art, 2014
- ✎ John L Paterson Postgraduate Design Scholarship, Edinburgh College of Art, 2014
- ✎ Finalist in Bullseye Glass 'Emerge 2014' competition sponsored by Bullseye Glass, Co., 2014
- ✎ Finalist in European Glass Experience competition supported by the Culture Program, European Union, 2013

## Selected Artist Bibliography.....

- ✎ Contemporary Glass Society (2020) *Glass Network: 'Portfolio of Inspiration'*. Norfolk: Micropress, (77) p. 12
- ✎ RAFT (2019) *Material Fluidity*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh College of Art, p. 9
- ✎ Edinburgh College of Art Glass Alumni (2018) *Transition*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh College of Art, pp. 48–49
- ✎ EGE (2015) *European Glass Experience*. City of Venice and Consorzio Promovetro Murano, pp. 114 & 165
- ✎ Kunststichting Perspektief (2014) *International Glass Art Biennial*. Haacht, Belgium, p. 29
- ✎ Bullseye Glass, Co. (2014) *emerge 2014*. Portland, Oregon, p. 36

## Exhibition Artistic Direction & Curation (Highlights).....

- 2023–2024. *NBPT Murals Project*, commissioned, curated, installed large-scale, exterior murals in Newburyport, USA
- 2023. *Journeying Well: Artistic Pathways*, group exhibition at Newburyport Art, USA
- 2022. *Glass Perspectives: A Celebration of Glass & Glass Concepts*, international group exhibition at Newburyport Art, USA
- 2016. *A Makers Marks Network Event*, exhibition and speaker event presented at Summerhall, Edinburgh, UK
- 2016. *Makers Marks*, exhibition of Ingenious Grant outputs at Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, UK

## Detailed Teaching Experience.....

### Instructor, Design & Screen Cultures for 4<sup>th</sup> Year Dissertation Students, Edinburgh College of Art, 2017–2018

- ✎ Supervised 12 Undergraduate, Honours, Design students undertaking year-long projects and 6,000-word theses
- ✎ Delivered small group tutorials, individual tutorials, and a formal lecture; assessed and provided feedback for one formative draft submission and one summative submission per student

### Instructor/Project Developer, ‘after the storm’ project, Glass Department, Edinburgh College of Art 2016–2017

- ✎ Co-led a year-long, interdisciplinary, collaborative project between 21 students & Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
- ✎ Developed the group concept, delivered lectures, workshops, tutorials, and prepped students/projects for exhibition

### Guest Lecturer, ‘Digital Crafting in Glass’ Course, Edinburgh College of Art, Spring 2017

- ✎ Delivered formal lectures on interdisciplinary practice and digital technologies within art and design practice
- ✎ Taught workshops on the creative process and ideation techniques to aid 22 undergraduates starting new projects

### Instructor/Creator, ‘Play with Fire: Glass Concepts’, Innovative Learning, University of Edinburgh, 2015–2016

- ✎ Developed and marketed the course concept as part of Innovative Learning Initiative to the University community
- ✎ Taught ideation techniques in workshops, lectured on the history of glass, and taught studio glass basics to 23 students

## Research Experience.....

### Doctoral Research (2015–2021) Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- ✎ Thesis title: *Association in Creative Idea Generation: A Black Box Dissertation Staged in Lyric Inquiry and Glass Concepts*, available as a compressed PDF: <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/38635>  
available as a digital artist’s book: <https://www.inconcertwithglass.com/copy-of-black-box-dissertation-in-gla>
- ✎ Research explored word and concept association in creative idea generation; studied university student glass ideation
- ✎ Thesis is designed as a creative, non-traditional dissertation and presented as a work of post-studio glass: it is creatively written (with lyric lines opposite traditional academic text) and designed as an artist’s book
- ✎ Research outputs include a new technique for generating ideas, a written theory of creative idea generation, a book of lyric writing, a book of creative practice ideas, and art and design objects and projects
- ✎ Examiners: Prof. Chris Speed, Prof. Clare Twomey; Supervisors: Dr. Sophia Lycouris, Dr. Jessamy Kelly, Geoff Mann

## Refereed Publications.....

Naas, L. (2023) ‘Forwarding Glass Education: My PhD Thesis is Post-Studio Glass’. *Journal of the Glass Art Society*, 39–41

Naas, L. and Faleris, D. (2019) ‘Makers Marks: Capturing, Preserving, and Sharing the Sounds of Glassmaking’. [online] *Arts* 2019 (8), 1 available from: <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0752/8/1/19>. DOI: 10.3390/arts8010019

Naas, L. (2017) ‘Makers Marks: Glass in Translation’ in: Proceedings of the 3rd Biennial Research Through Design Conference, 22–24 March 2017, Edinburgh, UK, Article 05, pp. 65–81. DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.4746943  
[https://figshare.com/articles/Makers\\_Marks\\_Glass\\_in\\_Translation/4746943](https://figshare.com/articles/Makers_Marks_Glass_in_Translation/4746943)

## Select Presentations.....

2023. **Artist Presenter** for ‘Books and Resistance Symposium’ (virtual presenter), Centre for the Book, New Zealand

2023. **Artist Lecturer** for Glass Art Society Conference (Detroit, MI) with talk ‘My PhD Thesis is Post-Studio Glass’

2022. **Artist Presenter** for Newburyport Art (Newburyport, MA) with talk ‘Celebrating Access’

2021. **Presenter** for X-disciplinary Congress on Artistic Research (virtual presenter), Vilnius Academy, Lithuania

2018. **Guest Presenter/Design Consultant** for Edinburgh MasterCard Scholars Design Day, Edinburgh, UK

2017. **Paper Presenter and Exhibitor** at Research Through Design Conference, National Museum, Edinburgh UK

2016. **Artist Presenter** at ‘Time to Share’ workshop of Northlands Glass Conference, Edinburgh College of Art, UK

2016. **Artist Presenter** at *A Makers Mark Network Event*, Summerhall, Edinburgh, UK

## Other Publishing.....

Naas, L. (2025) *In Concert With Glass* [online] available from <https://www.inconcertwithglass.com/>

Naas, L. (2022) *Association in Idea Generation: A Black Box Dissertation Staged in Lyric Inquiry and Glass Concepts*. PhD Thesis  
<https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/38635> Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh

Naas, L. (2020) ‘Embodiment’. in *Waves: A Confluence of Women’s Voices*. New Mexico: AROHO Foundation

Naas, L. (2019) ‘With Maraschino Cherries’. *The Inkwell: Borderline* (19), 20–23

Naas, L. (2015) ‘Not Easily Articulated: The Language of Artistic Collaboration’. *Glass Network* (57), 13