



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kathy DeWild

Kathy.DeWild@santacruzcounty.us

ANNIE MORHAUSER NAMED 2022 ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Annie Morhauser has been named 2022 Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission.

The Artist of the Year award is presented to local artists for outstanding achievement in the discipline of performing, visual, or literary arts who have also made a substantial contribution to the cultural enrichment of Santa Cruz County. Morhauser is the founder of Annieglass, a highly successful line of glass tableware and sculpture sold worldwide. Handcrafting her glassware in Santa Cruz County since 1983, she developed her company throughout the years to become one of the largest and most successful American glass studios.

By combining skills as a designer, artisan, and businesswoman, Morhauser has built a highly regarded brand and has been featured in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow, Scotland, and the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York. She has won numerous design awards and patents for her work. Annieglass can be purchased in the finest stores, and is collected by chefs, celebrities, bridal couples and many loyal local customers.

Annie has accomplished something rare: crossing over into the commercial world while tenaciously retaining her fine art approach. Her downtown Santa Cruz store was one of the first to reopen after the 1989 earthquake, despite the destruction of more than four tons of glass in her studio. Next year, Morhauser will celebrate 40 years of creating sculptural glassware with her skilled team of artisans. The Annieglass studio, originally 400 square feet in the Old Sash Mill, is now a manufacturing facility of more than 16,000 square feet in Watsonville.

Twice each year a new collection is introduced. Annieglass has invigorated the ancient craft of glassmaking with new technology and original design.



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Annie came to Santa Cruz in 1977. She learned glassblowing at the College of San Mateo and San Francisco State University before receiving a scholarship to the glass program as a student of Marvin Lipofsky at the California College of Arts and Crafts, now called the California College of the Arts. She serves there now as an advisor, donor and board trustee.

In 2017, Annie launched The Craftbar with her daughter Ava Reinhold, hosting a variety of workshops in arts and crafts, which functions as a community beacon. The Annieglass retail store and website offers all of the Annieglass collections as well the work by other well-known and local craft artists. Tours of the factory are available to the public on Saturdays.

Over 400 non-profits annually receive cash and in-kind donations, including Jacob's Heart, Girls Inc., Digital Nest, Planned Parenthood of Mar Monte, Salud Para La Gente, Watsonville Film Festival, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Museum of Art and History. Over 40 scholarships have been awarded to students in need. The Santa Cruz community has been very supportive and generous to Annieglass, Annie and her family. Her son, Taylor Reinhold, recently directed the Sea Walls Santa Cruz murals and follows in the family footsteps of art and community service.

Over the last 36 years, the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission has selected outstanding artists nominated by the public and has honored them through the Artist of the Year Award. Nominees must be a resident of Santa Cruz County, must have a national or international reputation, must have contributed to the cultural enrichment of the local community, and must have created or presented work in Santa Cruz County. For more information, including how to nominate an artist for the award, please visit www.scparks.com.

A free Profile Performance will be held in fall 2022. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the location and format of the performance will be determined at a later date. Check the Parks Department website in summer 2022 for more information.