

Corning Museum of Glass

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High in the North of New York, there is a little town called Corning. It's completely unassuming from the outside, but in reality it's the center of American glass blowing culture.



One important part of this culture is the Corning Museum of Glass. It's most glassblower's dreams to be able to work there.

I got to visit the Museum of Glass yesterday. Not only were the exhibitions beautiful, they showed different glassblowing techniques, one of which was demonstrated for a crowd in their hotbox auditorium. Below, you can see some images from the museum.

At the beginning of our tour, before even entering the galleries, we were met by the Museum's mascot, Penguin Pierre, (left). He was by glass artist Catherine Labonte in 2019, and now his face (and feet!) are plastered all over the museum, telling people how to stay safe. He is also shown wearing his "Penguin

Protective Equipment," or PPE. My question for the penguin was: if you're in a glass case, are you in a case of flesh, or are you made of a case?

He didn't answer.

Once tickets were bought and stickers applied to our chests, it was off to the gallery. The entrance was a ramp down to a blank white room with a chandelier (right). The piece, called *To Die Upon A Kiss*, made by Fred Wilson in 2003 for the prestigious Venice Biennale, an international art exhibition. The chandelier is supposed to represent the influences of Africa on Venetian art, and restore them from invisibility.

In the next room was the Body exhibition, with pieces like *The Walker; for how to honor the price of compassion* (next page, right), created from glass and salvaged materials, and assembled by artist Vanessa German.





After Body was another room (I didn't write down the name), which featured two stunning pieces. The first was *Carroña (Carrion)* by Spanish glass artist Javier Pérez. This piece (above, left) features a blown-glass chandelier made, and then broken, by Pérez. It also features a murder of taxidermied crows feasting on the chandelier's remains.

In all, the Corning Museum of Glass was *really cool*. I'd recommend it for anyone in the area, and it's a good place to stop on a long road trip, like I did.