

From Danville to Venice

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Powell chosen for Venice exhibition

Stephen Rolfe Powell, a Centre College art professor, is one of eight Kentucky artists chosen for a prestigious international exhibition. Powell will travel to Venice, Italy, for the Oct. 16th opening of Venezia Aperto Vetro 1998, which will showcase the work of 45 glass artists from around the world. The show remains open through Jan. 8.

The exhibition is part of a citywide celebration of Italy's dominant role in the history of glass art. Powell, who has exhibited throughout the United States and Europe, describes this as "the most important show" of his career. He will be represented with five works.

The exhibition is curated by Attilia Dorigato, director of the glass museum on Italy's Murano island; Dan Klein, a British art historian and contemporary glass specialist; and Rosa Barovier Mentasti, an art historian and specialist in Venetian glass.

Powell has become internationally admired for his elaborately colored glass vessels, which often stand two or three feet tall. The production of each vessel requires weeks of design and preparation work, followed

by grueling work in the hot glass studio. A team of students helps Powell with the process.

The vessels are held in permanent collections throughout the world, including the Hermitage in Russia. Powell has been featured on CBS-TV's Sunday Morning and Kentucky Educational Television and in print media, including American Style, Glass, Kentucky Living and Ceramics Monthly.

Powell teaches ceramics at Centre, and he supervised the construction of a 30-foot anagama kiln that is hand-fired two or three times each year for instructional purposes with ceramics students.

Powell secured donations for the kiln and also for a state-of-the-art hot glass studio, which he and his students constructed in the new visual arts center that opened at Centre this year.

Powell has been a guest teacher and artist in the Soviet Union, Australia and New Zealand.

Powell holds a bachelor's degree in painting and ceramics from Centre and a master's in fine arts from Louisiana State University.