

1 February to 28 April 2019 at 78, Derngate Northampton NN1 1UH

*CARNIVAL GLASS SOCIETY EXHIBITION  
INSPIRED BY CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH  
AND 78 DERNGATE*



In 1916, when Charles Rennie Mackintosh was commissioned to remodel and decorate parts of Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke's new home, 78 Derngate, carnival glass was at the height of its popularity across the world with manufacture in America well established and manufacture in Germany and other parts of Europe well under way.

It is not surprising, therefore, that we see a synergy between Mackintosh's work and carnival glass designs of that period which drew on a history of Art Nouveau, Orientalism and Arts & Crafts leading into bolder geometric designs that would become more prevalent in the Art Deco period of the 1920s.

*ANTHONY AND MAUREEN WARD COLLECTION*

Some 100 years later the Carnival Glass Society was kindly gifted a collection of carnival glass and we have selected items from it to display in this exhibition that reflect the design styles and motifs favoured by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, including those which he used in his decoration of 78 Derngate; most of the items on show were made between 1907 and the late 1920s.



Top L/R: Carnival Decorama shot glass, CRM glass panel in hall/lounge, Carnival Rex vase, CRM panels in hall/lounge, Carnival Rekord vase.  
Bottom L/R: Carnival Rose Garden vase side, Bassett-Lowkes' guest bedroom, Rose Garden vase front, CRM rose frieze in main bedroom.

When you visit the Exhibition, look out for rectangular ladders and lattices as well as bold triangles which reflect the shapes found on the screen and stencilling in the hall/lounge of this house. The dazzling vertical

lines which you can see in the Bassett-Lowkes' guest bedroom are found in carnival glass patterns, for example on the side of the Rose Garden letter vase made by Brockwitz, Germany, and introduced in its 1915 catalogue. Ahead of his time, many of the striking geometrics which Mackintosh used are found in the carnival glass designs of the 1920s. We have also included stylised flowers, a feature of his work, as well as emblems, such as Peacocks, from the earlier Art Nouveau and Aesthetic movements.

Carnival Glass comes in a range of colours including vibrant blues, greens, purples and oranges (known as marigold) through to delicate ice pastels and whites which are represented in these displays. Just as Mackintosh used bright yellow - the one colour that colour blind Bassett-Lowke could see clearly – in his bold geometric stencilling in the lounge of 78 Derngate to brighten up this north facing room, marigold was a popular colour for carnival glass at that time because it glowed in the dimly lit parlours of the early 1900s, many of which were still lit only by candles.



You will find carnival glass in these displays which has been made in UK (by Sowerby), Germany, Poland, Czech Republic (Bohemia), Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, Portugal, America, Australia and India.

Why not visit this iconic house to see this magnificent glass display and to tour around the amazing rooms which Charles Rennie Mackintosh designed for the Bassett-Lowke family over 100 years ago.

Our sincere thanks to 78 Derngate for inviting us to present this exhibition

## *WHEN AND WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE?*

This spectacular collection will be on display at 78 Derngate, Northampton, NN1 1UH from 1 February 2019 until 28 April 2019.

Opening times for 78 Derngate are Tuesday to Sunday, plus bank holidays, 10am to 5pm (Last entry 4pm).

There is a delightful café which is open on all of these days except for Bank Holiday Mondays.

Look out for further information about the display in the coming weeks and for more information on 78 Derngate visit [www.78derngate.org.uk](http://www.78derngate.org.uk).

(Photographs of 78 Derngate are Courtesy of 78 Derngate).

