

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



### **GooseFire Gallery Announces May 21 Grand Opening, Rare Clinton Roman Debut Exhibit**

**Timed to open with the International Glass Show in Los Angeles,  
GooseFire Gallery aims to be West Coast's premier functional glass art gallery**

*Gallery owner suggests a shift toward mainstream acceptance of glass smokeware as fine art as California embraces new medicinal marijuana regulations*

**LONG BEACH, Calif. (May 2, 2011)** – As the world's largest glass smokeware convention descends upon the Los Angeles Convention Center from May 20-22, GooseFire Gallery will open its doors and immediately become one of the largest collections of smokeware and glass art in the U.S. Celebrated glass blower Clinton Roman – who owns a cult-like following within this alternative industry – will offer the gallery's debut exhibit and make a rare in-person appearance during the gallery's opening events.

A public Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, accompanied by a series of private showings and celebrations earlier in the week. GooseFire Gallery's raw, exposed concrete space within Long Beach's historic Houser Building will feature more than 65 pieces of original, hand-blown borosilicate glass and smokeware.

GooseFire Gallery owner Matthew Abrams, who also operates nearby High Priority Glass, one of Long Beach's most successful smoke shops, understands the early-stage weariness of non-traditional glass art galleries and expects mixed perceptions about the opening.

"The opening of GooseFire Gallery represents an evolving understanding of the dynamic and polarizing marijuana culture in the U.S.," he said. "As popular opinion shifts about how to discuss and deal with legal and medicinal uses of cannabis, a powerful undercurrent of legitimacy is sweeping our industry, led by business owners and curators like us seeking lawful and entrepreneurial strategies for engaging and supporting artists, advocates, patients and lawmakers. We are thrilled to open our doors and gauge critical response."

GooseFire Gallery will also exhibit traditional glasswork, in addition to smokeware.

Built in 1929 at 2740 E. Broadway, the Houser Building is one of Long Beach's acclaimed Historical Landmarks, featuring three-stories of exposed red brick in Italianate-style architecture.

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GooseFire Gallery has completed all renovations within the standards for rehabilitating historic buildings as outlined by law.

In bringing GooseFire Gallery to life, Abrams was committed to retaining as much of the Houser Building’s historic mystique and hired local artisans to build the revitalized space. Long Beach-based Peterson Lighting performed a custom lighting installation for the gallery, and all art cases were built and mounted by Anaheim-based Pico Orange. Baucus Electric of Long Beach performed all hard-wiring for the gallery, and GooseFire Gallery’s website was designed and programmed by Long Beach-based Media Done Right.

Eddyville, Oregon-based Clinton Roman practices several different glass-blowing techniques, including what he refers to as “the dance of the elements,” which utilizes the way heat rises and gravity falls and combines marvering and carving, adding and removing, hot and cold points, centrifugal force, fire polishing and axis shifts.

“I’ve dedicated my life to unlocking [the mysteries of glass blowing], knowing that I certainly couldn’t unlock all of them in several lifetimes,” says Roman on his website. “This may be unappealing to some, but for me it’s absolutely intriguing.”

More information about Clinton Roman is available at [www.LunaAngelica.com](http://www.LunaAngelica.com).

In addition to Roman’s collections, pieces crafted by glass blower Marcell Braun will also be shown as part of the gallery’s debut exhibit. Roman and Braun are considered by many as the Godfathers of the borosilicate, hard-glass blowing movement. Other local artists contributing work to GooseFire Gallery include Lurch, Ryno, DWreck and Saki Bomb.

For-sale artwork will range from \$200 to more than \$15,000.

For more information about GooseFire Gallery, please visit the gallery at [www.GooseFireGallery.com](http://www.GooseFireGallery.com) or on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/GooseFireGallery](http://www.Facebook.com/GooseFireGallery) or call (562) 433-4100.

GooseFire Gallery is at 2740 E. Broadway, Long Beach, CA, 90803.

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