

September 2003

## THE BOMBAY SAPPHIRE BLUE ROOM EXHIBITION

*Glass in Contemporary Life*

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2003 – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2004

### GEFFRYE MUSEUM

English Domestic Interiors

The short-listed and winning entries for *THE BOMBAY SAPPHIRE PRIZE* – the biggest annual international glass design award with a £20,000 prize fund – are being exhibited in *The Bombay Sapphire Blue Room* exhibition at the Geffrye Museum from September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2003 to January 11<sup>th</sup> 2004.

This exhibition brings together outstanding projects by international artists, architects and designers who have chosen glass as the primary material for their designs. It demonstrates the incredible versatility of glass as a design medium and its importance in our daily lives.

The selection panel for The Bombay Sapphire Prize includes international designers and glass experts from The Bombay Sapphire Foundation established last year to support and reward contemporary glass design. The judges include Ron Arad, Tom Dixon, Thomas Heatherwick (last year's Bombay Sapphire Prize winner), Nicole Farhi, Lesley Jackson and Dan Klein.

Thirty architects, designers and artists have been short-listed from an original submission of over 500 entries from all over the world. All entries had to use glass as an integral part of their design and have been created within the last two years. Judges were looking for innovation and excellence in the use of glass in three categories: architecture, design and art.

The overall winner of The Bombay Sapphire Prize will be awarded £15,000 and two runners-up £2,500. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at the Geffrye Museum in London on October 23rd.

Representing The Bombay Sapphire Foundation, Sharon Reid comments, "The close association of Bombay Sapphire – the premium gin in the striking blue bottle – with glass design is a logical and exciting development for us. We have been championing contemporary design for several years now and the more recent association with glass design comes naturally from the bottle itself.

"The Bombay Sapphire Prize clearly reflects our commitment to supporting and rewarding contemporary glass design and we have been delighted with the growing interest generated by this major international design award scheme. Entries this year have been received from across Europe, the US, Australia and the Far East. The new Bombay Sapphire Blue Room exhibition is an outstanding showcase of the very best in contemporary glass design."

The Bombay Sapphire Blue Room will tour regional venues around the UK from January to August 2004. The first regional tour venue will be the Millennium Galleries in Sheffield (26/1/04 to 21/3/04).

- Ends -

**Note to Editors:**

1. The Geffrye Museum presents the quintessential style of English urban middle-class interiors from 1600 to the present day through a chronological sequence of period rooms. The museum is set in the former almshouses of the Ironmongers' Company, elegant 18th century buildings surrounded by tranquil gardens, including an award-winning walled herb garden and a series of period gardens in Shoreditch, East London.

Admission: FREE  
Address: 136 Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, London E2 8EA  
Tel No: 020 7739 9893  
Recorded Info: 020 7739 8543  
**Web Address:** [www.geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk)  
Email Address: [info@geffrye-museum.org.uk](mailto:info@geffrye-museum.org.uk)  
Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm  
Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 12 - 5pm  
Travel: Buses: 149, 242, 243, 67 or 394  
Tube: Liverpool St (Bishopsgate exit), then bus 149 or 242  
Old St (exit 2), then bus 243

2. For high resolution colour images or further information on activities relating to The Bombay Sapphire Blue Room exhibition at the Geffrye Museum, please contact:

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Angela Oakes/Andrew Carney, The Bombay Sapphire Foundation on 0207 224 0994 or e-mail: [foundation@bombaysapphire.org](mailto:foundation@bombaysapphire.org)