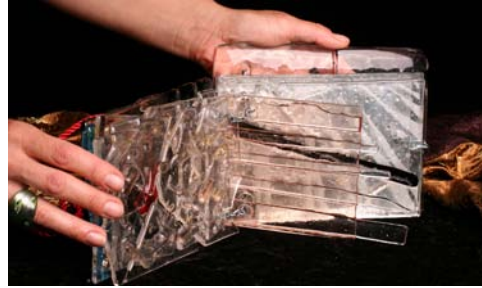


# GLASSBOOK PROJECT



## About the project

The GlassBook Project is a mysterious and evolving artwork that also seeks to make systems and programs more responsive and helpful to survivors of trauma. Evocative and innovative, books of glass build understanding of how people might respond to trauma (e.g. self injury, eating disorders, anger/aggression, substance use, changes in relationships and careers, thrill seeking, dissociation, etc) - and in so doing, the project hopes to lessen the stigma and discrimination that often keeps people disconnected from community and their support networks.

In the GlassBook Project, survivors meet with students to share their trauma experiences and explain how certain behaviors helped them cope. These behaviors (frequently labeled as symptoms of mental or other illness) are often a means of survival. Through this educational experience, students are guided to shift perspectives from "What's wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?" and away from blaming the victims. Students then research and make books on a particular topic, reflecting a survivor's point of view.

The books are exhibited in a wide range of contexts, including at federal and state meetings, art galleries, educational institutions, conferences, and other events accompanied with programming.



## GlassBook Project collections

- Self Injury
- After Domestic Violence: Changed Relationships
- 120 MPH: Thrill Seeking After Combat
- Return: "home" after 9/11

## Advocacy

- Violated: Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Victim Rights
- Finding Peace
- Breathless: Mothers of Children with Special Needs

## Accomplishments

- SAMHSA, National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day feature exhibit
- Funded by the The Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region II
- Ambassador Award for Education, NJ Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma
- The Bell Leadership Award, Mental Health Association in NJ
- One of the top five national mental health innovations in 2009, Mental Health Weekly
- Rutgers University-Newark Chancellor Award for Community Engagement
- Showcase exhibition and presentation, SAMHSA Voice Awards, Paramount Theater
- Congressional support and recognition from Donald Payne (D-NJ)
- Grant for curriculum development by the Center for Mental Health Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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## Exhibitions

- Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ
- Harman Center for the Arts, Shakespeare Theater, Washington, DC
- Museum of American Glass, Wheaton Arts Center, Millville, NJ
- University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- Paul Robeson Art Gallery, Newark, NJ
- Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence, Bethesda, MD
- National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony, Office for Victims of Crime at the US Department of Justice
- NYC Healthy Teen Relationship Conference: Transforming Media
- Mental Health Association in NJ
- Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ
- John Cotton Dana Library, Rutgers
- CMHS' National Center for Trauma-Informed Care States Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- Mental Health America National Conference, Washington, DC
- Federal Office SAMHSA, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



**advocacy**



**conferences & meetings**



**hands-on workshops**

## Get Involved

The GlassBook Project adapts to the culture and concerns of each community wanting to create or utilize a collection. Advocacy books can be created under contract. In addition to exhibiting GlassBook Project collections, Witness Justice also offers keynote and training presentations on trauma, violence, trauma-informed care and more. phone: **Nick 973 353 5600 Helga 301 846 9110**

## About Us

The GlassBook Project is a creation of Artist Nick Kline, done in partnership with Helga Luest, Witness Justice. The Project collaborates with other artists, survivors, students, agencies and community organizations. Kline is an Assistant Professor, Rutgers University-Newark, in the Department of Arts, Culture and Media, and Luest is a recognized trauma expert and 2011 U.S. Congressional Award Winner for her national advocacy efforts on behalf of victims of crime and survivors of trauma.



**Installation view, Paul Robeson Gallery, Newark, NJ**