

*I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Highland Society of London for providing me with a grant towards my ongoing studies in glass at the Royal College of Art in London.*

*The Highlands and Islands are a constant source of inspiration for me. It's where I'm from, it's where I was brought up and it's never far from my mind. There's a certain sense of place which I attach to the Highlands, a sense of belonging. It's raw and it's emotive. History runs deep in the mind-set of Highlanders, we have a special connection with the landscape and our region's past. What I attempt to do through my practice is tap into some of that disposition. I often look to historic events which have influenced and impacted upon the contemporary Highland image in order to communicate, discuss and better appreciate it. Including peat and local soils into my glass castings gives the work an innate link to the landscape, something which I believe to be very important in my practice, the ability to evoke that sense of place.*

*Since starting my MA study at the RCA in late September I have been making use of the world leading facilities which are available. The Ceramics & Glass department moved to a brand new campus in Battersea in September so I'm privileged to be a part of the very first year to use the new buildings and equipment.*

*Most of my focus has been dedicated to honing my knowledge of glass casting processes, however, the Royal College also encourage new thought perspectives and questioning of material which challenge previous methods. It's demanding but it's hugely stimulating and immensely satisfying. The funds have gone a long way to helping me meet the costs attached to this undertaking.*

*Shaun Fraser*



*Image 1: Image of making process - taking a wax impression from Canadian moose antler.*



*Image 2: Image of making process - taking a wax impression from Canadian moose antler.*



*Image 3: Final piece cast in solid glass. 'Ach An Cuan/The Atlantic Series (Part 1)'*