

International Iittala Cup – June 7, 2008

The International Glassblowing competition, Iittala Cup 2008, will be held for the fifteenth time at the Iittala glassworks this June. A total of 34 glassblowers from Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Hungary will take part.



Some of the best in the field

An invitation event, the Iittala Cup is aimed at only the very best glassblowers, and has always proved a very exciting – and emotional – competition between participants as to who can blow the largest bowl, cylinder, and ball. Participants have a limited amount of time at their disposal and are given a maximum of two attempts. Skill, strength, and the ability to perform under pressure are all essential for blowing large, heavy pieces; and a little luck never goes amiss either. The audience always plays an important part in the Iittala Cup, and participants can be sure of an enthusiastic reception.

Record number of participants

A record number of participants are due to take part this year, 34 in all, of whom two are women. Competitors from Norway and Hungary will join glassblowers from Finland and Sweden for the first time.

Massive results

The largest bowl to be produced by a participant to date, measuring 666 mm across, was blown by **Heikki Punkari** of the Iittala glassworks in 2000, the largest cylinder, at 4,271 mm, by **Jorma Karppinen** of Sweden, and the largest ball, at 593 mm, by **Keijo Kopra** of the Iittala glassworks in 1987. The Iittala Cup is organised every other year, and the 2006 event was won by **Kari Alakoski**, who teaches glassblowing at the Tavastia College of Further Education, and is a participant this year as well.

Competition timetable

The event will be hosted by media personality **Ville Klinga**, and will run as follows:

9.00	Opening, address by Osmo Strengell , Director of Iittala's glassworks
9.15	First round begins
11.30	Second round, cylinder (lunch break at around 1.30 p.m.)
3.00	Final round, ball
4.00	Award ceremony

The Iittala Glass Centre will open its summer season on the same day.

Further information:

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