Austin Glass Artist Morgan Graff Wins Hanger's 'ARTroduction to Austin' Art Competition

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Glass Artist to Receive $10,000 Commission for 'Strides' Artwork; Round Rock's Bryan Dubreuiel Wins $1,000 Employee Choice Award for 'Back to Life' Artwork



Austin, Texas, November 18, 2010 —After receiving more than 60 entries from talented Central Texas artists, Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. is proud to announce Austin glass artist Morgan Graff has won Hanger's "ARTroduction to Austin" art competition.

In August 2010, the week the company moved into its new Austin headquarters, Hanger launched a region-wide art competition called "ARTroduction" that encouraged artists from Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties to compete for a $10,000 commission and the opportunity to display artwork at Hanger's new corporate headquarters at The Domain for approximately two years. The work will eventually be auctioned off to benefit a local nonprofit organization.

The winner and nine other finalists were selected through a juried process that included Hanger Orthopedic Group President and CEO Tom Kirk; Austin Artist, Holocaust Survivor and Hanger Patient Dr. Max Brenner; Senior Director of Art Education for the Austin Museum of Art Judith Sims; Acting Cultural Arts Division Manager with the City of Austin Megan Crigger; and *Austin Chronicle* Arts Writer Robert Faires.



The finalists each received a $500 prize and had their artwork displayed at a reception attended by more than 250 community leaders and Hanger employees on November 16, 2010. Hanger's 4,000+ employees nationwide also had the opportunity to get involved by voting for their favorite artwork to receive a $1,000 Employee Choice Award. All of the finalists and their submitted art pieces are available for viewing at www.ARTroduction.com.

MEDIA NOTE – High resolution photographs from Tuesday evening's ARTroduction reception are available for download here: http://www.hanger.com/MediaLibrary/ARTroduction

"The ARTroduction art competition confirmed for us that the Austin region is clearly a creative and innovative community," said Kirk. "Though all entries impressed and inspired us, Mrs. Graff's ability to visually and conceptually capture the history of Hanger Orthopedic Group as well as the theme 'Moving Lives Forward' is quite extraordinary. We appreciate Mrs. Graff offering her talents to tell our company's and our patients' incredible stories."

According to Graff, "Strides" is composed of a series of glass globes, all of different sizes and tints of amber color. Beginning with the founder, James Edward Hanger, each glass globe will contain photographs of Hanger's history, patients, innovations, and successes, representing moments of time within the company's rich past. As the cluster of globes move upward, more and more sweep across the wall, continuing past the windows. The globes will refract light, create shadows on the wall, and engage the viewer. The competition theme "Moving Lives Forward" will be represented by the movement of the globes along with the progression of achievements depicted within. A beautiful time capsule, this installation will also illustrate what is possible, and leave one wondering, "What's next?"

"This was a fun, yet challenging assignment, and my first real opportunity to expand from making hand-blown vessels and functional objects to creating glass as an element within a conceptual installation piece," said Graff. "I've never been involved with an installation piece as large as what I proposed, so being selected out of so many talented pieces of art is incredibly motivating. I'm looking forward to pursuing future installations and getting out there and marketing myself."

A 2002 graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, Graff has quickly become an accomplished glass maker managing her own business, Glass Blowing Austin, where she teaches and creates custom designs and fine art. Most recently she has exhibited her art in Haven Art Gallery in Austin and Craft Texas, an exhibition at the Houston Contemporary Center for Crafts.

Hanger is also proud to announce that Bryan Dubreuiel of Round Rock, Texas was selected by Hanger's employees to receive the $1,000 Employee Choice Award. Dubreuiel's piece, "Back to Life," is a 24" x 48" acrylic painting that depicts an amputee in silhouette running away from a series of colorful lines that represent turmoil and stress.

From Dubreuiel's artist statement: "When I thought about the theme, 'Moving Lives Forward,' I immediately related to my military career and witnessing incredible people who sacrifice their lives to provide freedom and peace, only to come home missing part of their physical body. With the help of incredible technology, they were able to get through major turmoil, stress, distractions and life-changing adaptations to get back to life."

Dubreuiel served 20 years in the United States Navy. He has been featured in "The Art of Living Gallery," a TV documentary for the Veria Network, and in *Modern Dallas* Magazine. He is listed as one of "America's Most Awesome Artists" by 99daz.com. More of Dubreuiel's work is available at http://www.etsy.com/shop/bryandub.

Hanger Orthopedic Group celebrated the relocation of its company headquarters from Bethesda, Maryland to Austin, Texas with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 15, 2010. By the end of 2010, Hanger expects to employ a staff of 145 at its Austin headquarters, of which 100 are new, local hires.

About Hanger Orthopedic Group (www.hanger.com)
Hanger Orthopedic Group (NYSE: HGR) helps those with limb loss, paralysis, and debilitating orthopedic anomalies become productive members of society after a devastating injury or illness. We're in the business of providing personal independence, increased mobility and restored functionality. Our employees move lives forward and realize success through their patients' independence. With 680+ patient care centers in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Hanger Orthopedic Group is the world's premier provider of orthotic and prosthetic (O&P) patient care. Additionally, we have businesses in distribution, network management, and device development and commercialization.

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