



Thursday, December 4  
**Josh Simpson's Glass Studio  
&  
Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery Tour**

**9 am** – Meet the bus at the Springfield Museums' State Street parking lot located directly across the street from the Springfield City Library. Park in the lot and board the bus.

**9:15 am** – Depart for Shelburne Falls

**10:30 am** – Estimated arrival at the Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery in the picturesque village of Shelburne Falls. The Salmon Falls Gallery represents over 100 local artists (including Josh Simpson's work) with an incredible variety of jewelry, handmade furniture, wearable art and other unique, one-of-a-kind creations. Bring your holiday shopping list! There will be free time to explore and shop.

**11:45 am-12:30 pm** – Enjoy a boxed lunch. Menu TBA.

**12:30 pm** – Depart for Josh Simpson's Studio in Shelburne. In the intimate setting of the working studio, Josh and his "hot shop" team will share the incredible art of glass making through discussions and live glass making demonstrations followed by Q & A session.

Josh Simpson's career began in 1972, when he was a senior at Hamilton College. At the time, seniors were permitted to pursue their own interests during the month of January, so he spent that period practicing glass blowing in Vermont. Simpson became so enamored of working with glass that a month became a year, and while he returned to Hamilton briefly to complete his psychology degree, he has been pursuing this passion ever since. He is particularly well known for his planets, glass paperweights ranging in size from about an inch in diameter to the 107-pound *Megaplanet* commissioned by the Corning Museum of Glass.

"Glass consists of sand and metallic oxides combined with extraordinary, blinding heat. The result is a material that flows like honey. When it's hot, glass is alive. It moves gracefully and inexorably in response to gravity and centripetal force. It possesses an inner light and transcendent radiant heat that make it simultaneously one of the most rewarding and one of the most frustrating materials for an artist to work with. I try to coax and shape...the glass just wants to drip on the floor! Most of my work reflects a compromise between the molten material and me; each finished piece is a solidified moment when we both agree." - Josh Simpson

**3:30 pm** – Board the bus and depart for Springfield. **What to bring:** Water/snacks for the bus. Dress in layers for variable temperatures on the bus and in the gallery and studio. Bottled water is provided for the return home.

**Cost: \$95, Members, \$112, nonmembers; includes: tours, lunch, bus transportation and driver tip.**

**Cancellation Policy:** No refunds are issued for cancellations fewer than 2 weeks prior to December 4, unless you find a replacement. A \$15 fee is deducted for all cancellations received 2 weeks prior to December 4. Call 413-314-6482 or email [travel@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:travel@springfieldmuseums.org) if you need additional information.



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