



# MAGIC LANTERN – A MYSTICAL PERFORMANCE

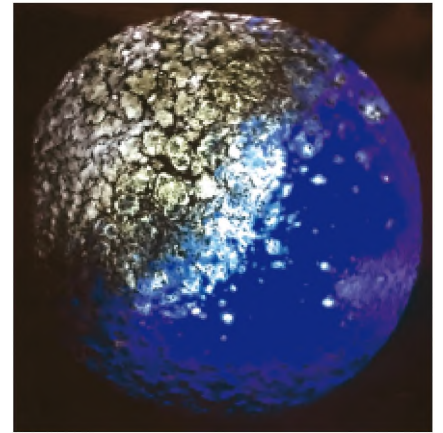
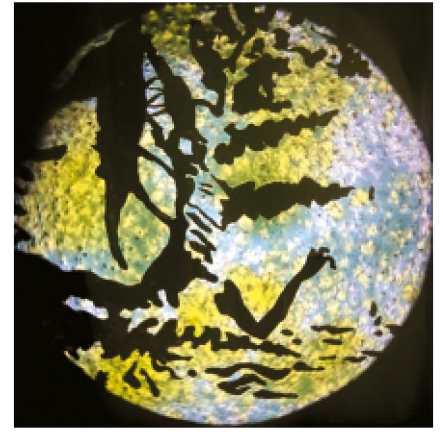
*Pippa Stacey*

I work as a glasswork tutor for Adult Learning Lewisham and during lockdown I had to create new courses for online teaching. I needed a challenge to this somewhat painstaking task so I set myself up for an online magic lantern performance for the Masquerade Summer School.

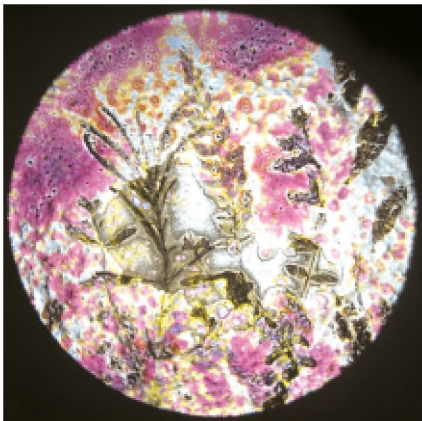
My Curriculum Leader wrote in the August Newsletter:

*'Magic Lantern – a mystical performance.* On the last day of the one-week intensive glasswork summer course our learners were given a real treat. Pippa Stacey (Artist/Designer/Tutor) performed and shared her award-winning magic lantern display online. The show provided its audience with mysterious and somewhat scary masks, a wonderful story of evil witch-like people showing an exploration of freeform paint techniques, fabulous woodland animals and even a touch of bird song. Learners were shown how the slides were put together, how they too could design their own and take part in sharing their work with other magic lantern enthusiasts. Exciting and inspiring!'

It was a great relief to have managed to create a show that everyone enjoyed and I surprised myself in coping with both lantern projection and technology! I set up my lantern in my workshed with the Chromebook for



connection to all my learners on Google Meet [other programs are available – Ed.] and fixed my phone to a holder for the visuals of the performance. This configuration was particularly useful in that I was able to take the glass slide out of its holder and, via my phone show close-ups which could then be discussed with the learners.



I am now working on a presentation with my lantern in the new year for the Contemporary Glass Society.

As a practising glass artist the lantern has been an inspiration – seeing light behind my work and the wonderful change of scale. The glass takes on another life when projected. These are the applications I use in a mix-and-match fashion:

- Coloured glass paint sifted onto the glass and fused
- Textures fused into the glass
- Organic matter fused inside two pieces of glass
- My drawings printed and fired into the glass

It is just time I need, for more experimentation!