

International Glass Art Exhibition 2026

Mystical Creatures and Mythical Beings

The theme selection committee convened by the Waldmuseum Zwiesel set the title for the International Glass Art Exhibition 2026 on 2 September 2025: “Mystical Creatures and Mythical Beings.” This title was confirmed by the Culture and Tourism Committee of the Town of Zwiesel in the minutes dated 14 October 2025.

The exhibition will be presented at the Waldmuseum Zwiesel from 31 July 2026 to 16 October 2026.

The choice of theme is rooted in the region’s rich cultural heritage:

In the Bavarian–Bohemian forested mountain range, as in many other peripheral regions of Germany, animism is deeply embedded. For centuries, it has found expression in beliefs about supernatural, otherworldly beings and creatures such as the glassworks spirit Durandl, the Mooshex, the Schratzeln, the Wild Hunt, or the Perchten, which are said to roam forests and fields.

The selected theme is intended to inspire artists from around the world to create their own interpretations of mystical creatures and mythical beings. Although the words “mystical” and “mythical” sound similar, they describe very different concepts: “mythical” refers to time-honoured tales, myths, and legends, while “mystical” points to supernatural spiritual experiences as well as to mysticism in a religious or philosophical sense.

Artists from around the world are invited, through this International Glass Art Exhibition 2026 under the motto “Mystical Creatures and Mythical Beings,” to explore the world of imagination and the supernatural through the art of glass—and, ideally, to expand the boundaries of glass art. Above all, the planned exhibition aims to provide a platform for examining the connection between nature, imagination, and craftsmanship, and to open up new perspectives on traditional motifs.

Artists may draw inspiration from regional tales and legends as well as from global myths and folklore. A wide diversity of interpretations is expressly encouraged.

- **The objects should be registered with the Waldmuseum Zwiesel by mid-March 2026.**
- **The artworks should be no more than three years old.**