

## Exhibit by glass master Gene Koss inspired by NOLA

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newwave@tulane.edu



From a Distance is the signature sculpture in a new exhibit of glass and steel works by renowned Tulane glass professor Gene Koss. The cantilever of this 19-foot long sculpture addresses the precarious feeling of being suspended over the Mississippi River. The exhibit is on view at Arthur Roger Gallery in New Orleans through Feb. 27. (Photo by Owen Murphy)

Inspired by views of the Crescent City and the rural Wisconsin landscapes of his youth, Tulane University glass professor Gene Koss has crafted sculptures from cast-glass forms and found or fabricated steel for his latest exhibition at [Arthur Roger Gallery](#) in New Orleans.

With sculptures ranging from small-scale pedestal works of glass, steel and found

objects, to monumental pieces, some weighing several tons, the exhibit “From a Distance” will be on view through Feb. 27 at the gallery, 432 Julia St.

“My goal has been to make glass fine art, not craft,” [Koss](#) says. “I use glass as a medium of pure sculptural expression resulting in monumental sculptures of cast glass, steel and light.”

The signature sculpture titled *From a Distance* was inspired “by this city I’ve loved for 40 years,” says Koss, who travels frequently across the Crescent City Connection bridge from his studio in Plaquemines Parish.

“The view of the city from the bridge is amazing and inspirational — the architecture, the movement of the water in the river, the way the light reflects off the buildings, the ships and barges traveling up and down the Mississippi,” he says. “The cantilever of the sculpture addresses the precarious feeling of being suspended over the river.”

Koss leads the glass program in the Newcomb Art Department and is teaching courses to both undergraduate and graduate students this semester. This [video](#) shows Koss and students at work in the Pace-Willson Glass Studio.

His work has been exhibited at the New Orleans Museum of Art; the Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans; the Masur Museum of Art in Monroe, Louisiana; the Sculpture Center in New York City; and the International Biennale for Contemporary Art in Florence, Italy. His work is in many prominent collections including the Pan American Life Collection in New Orleans and the Corning Museum of Glass in New York.

“‘From a Distance,’ the signature sculpture in this exhibition, was inspired by this city I’ve loved for 40 years.”

Gene Koss, glass professor