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PROFILE *A creative, dynamic senior manager working in the visual arts sector. I have considerable lecturing experience and background as a professional artist and designer. I combine effective managerial skills with practical & theoretical knowledge.*

CAREER SUMMARY

2009 – 2011 **National Glass Centre** www.nationalglasscentre.com Sunderland UK
Senior Manager, Enterprise

Selected achievements:

- Increased turnover of Glassmaking Studio threefold in 18 months.
- Reports directly to the Head of National Glass Centre.
- Seat on the Senior Staff Group overseeing the merger between the NGC and the University of Sunderland.
- To secure £25K investment in refurbishment of one of the workshops and significant improvements in others.
- Member of 'Change Champions' committee directly advising architects & University Executive on redevelopment of NGC public, educational & glass making resources.
- Presentations to Arts Organisations at the highest levels.
- To negotiate secure substantial contracts with high profile clients including Glenfiddich, Spey Whisky, Heatherwick Studios, AkzoNobel & Ford Aerospace.
- Worked with artists including Susan Hiller, Liliane Lijn, Nick Fox, Rose English
- Introduction of hands on glass blowing visitor experiences & gift packages.
- Management of a team of staff through a period of considerable change.
- Development of a strong working relationship with Corning Glass, New York.
- Presentation to the University of Sunderland 'Arts Advisory Board' on possible models for establishment of an 'Enterprise' unit within the Glass Centre.
- Represented NGC as a major corporate sponsor of Sunderland Young Achievers' Awards. Presentation of Awards two years running at Stadium of Light.
- Judge, Arts Competitions at Washington Arts Centre two years running.
- Piloted a self financing, 3 month international visiting artist programme.

2006 - 2009 **Structured career change – 6 months lecturing / 6 months on creative projects.**
A fully structured & carefully staged career change plan, designed to shift focus away from education & to reinvigorate involvement with glassmaking, creativity & artistic exploration.

Selected achievements

- 3 month residency with Tim Shaw, Adelaide www.timshawglass.com
- 2 month residency, The Glass Furnace, Istanbul
- 2 months, The Jam Factory, Australia
- Solo exhibition, Jam Factory – 'Snapshots'
- Visiting lecturer – BA Glass, University of South Australia
- Development of glass products for the Youval Susan Foundation, Jerusalem
- Visiting lecturer – BFA Glass, Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem
- 9 months working in Glass Studio with Israeli glass artist
- Development of on-line resource selling contemporary glass www.chrisblade/gallery with sales of \$10K in the first month
- Employed as professional adventure travel photographer.

1999 – 2008 **Northbrook College** www.northbrook.ac.uk West Sussex UK
Head of Department of Three Dimensional & Commercial Interior Design:

BA (Hons) Crafts; HND 3D Design: HND Commercial Interior Design.

Selected achievements

- 2/3 expansion of HE provision in the area.
- Conceived & wrote BA submissions for the OU & University of Brighton.
- Pass & retention rate of 97% over 5 years.
- Restructured college workshops & safety procedures, from facilities on the brink of closure into modern, clean, safe & well-managed resources.
- Member of College Health & Safety Committee.
- Member of College Academic Board.
- Chair, BA (Hons) Crafts – Exam Board.

1993 - 1999	South Thames College www.south-thames.ac.uk Head of Three Dimensional Design: Lecturer & Course Leader	London UK
2004/5/7	The Glass Furnace Joint tutor delivering 2-week residential glassblowing courses	Istanbul Turkey
1991 - 1993	South Thames College Part-time lecturer, BTEC Foundation Diploma, Art & Design	London UK
1991	Sunderland Polytechnic Visiting Lecturer, BA (Hons) Glass	
1990 – 1991	North East Wales Institute Visiting Lecturer BA (Hons) Glass	Wrexham Wales
1989 - 1993	Northbrook College Part-time lecturer, BTEC Foundation Diploma, Art & Design	Horsham
1989 - 1991	'Kings Walk Gallery' Founder and manager of a large gallery specialising in Contemporary Art, design and sculpture.	Kings Road, London
1987 - 2009	'Christopher Blade Design' www.chrisblade.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 exhibitions – nationally and internationally • Design & consultancy work 	

ACADEMIC RECORD

1985 - 1987	Master of Arts: MA (RCA) Glass Royal College of Art	London
1987	Arts into Business Diploma 4-month business course for Artists & Designers – LEntA	London
1982 - 1985	BA (Hons) Glass 2:1 Staffordshire University	Stoke-on-Trent UK
1981 - 1982	Diploma in Art & Design - Foundation Studies West Surrey College of Art and Design	Surrey UK
1974 - 1981	8 O' levels, 3 A levels Lord Wandsworth College	Hampshire UK

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Recipient of grant from the 'Princes' Youth Business Trust'
- Passion for culture, travel and exploration of remote countries
- First Aid - Appointed Person
- Qualified paraglider pilot
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Highly accomplished classical guitarist

REFERENCES: available on request