

The Glass Queen of Zwiesel



Océane Reintgen, the glass queen of Zwiesel
glass apparatus maker and glassmaker in training

Every few years, Zwiesel chooses its glass sovereigns, honorary positions of glass queen and princess for which anyone can apply. During the two-year reign, the successful candidates represent the glassmaking town of Zwiesel and the wonderful material of glass.

Why did I apply? Quite simply: I can't get enough of glass and I wholeheartedly want to promote this craft more widely. Passing on the glassmaking tradition and inspiring young people to pursue this craft is a matter close to my heart. I look forward to meeting new people, whether in the same craft or in other sectors, so that we can champion our wonderful craft together.

There's no better way to make new contacts and stand up for our craft than by holding the office of glass queen, so I applied.

After submitting a standard application, I was invited to Zwiesel town hall. There, I had an interview with five jurors, ranging from the mayor of Zwiesel to prominent glass experts and artists from the surrounding area. I was allowed to present myself and my vision for the position, and afterwards, I had to answer some questions from the jurors.

Just as quickly as my nerves grew, the surprising news arrived: They want me to be glass queen!

I was completely overwhelmed and speechless that it would really be me. I realized that I would be taking on the role of the 11th glass queen of Zwiesel for the next two years. I'm especially happy that both I and the elected glass princess work in the glassmaking trade. This is a combination that has been rather rare in past years. Karin Raith, the glass princess, is a glass engraver, and I am a qualified glass apparatus maker and currently training to be a glassmaker. This allows us to truly represent the office with expertise and passion.

The coronation day also marks the start of the Zwiesel Borderland Festival. We were introduced by the mayor's most heartfelt words and escorted onto the stage in a wonderful traditional procession. The previous glass queen and princess crowned us, thus passing on their office to us.

This was accompanied by wonderful Bavarian folk music. Among the spectators were honored guests, visitors to the Borderland Festival, residents of the town of Zwiesel, and especially our families and friends, who are my greatest support. Full of excitement and nervousness, we said a few words to hundreds of people and introduced ourselves. The sash, the scepter, the crown, and the dirndl made us shine like royalty. Then we were invited into our carriages, and the Borderland Festival was opened with a grand parade that wound its way through the entire town.



From left to right: former glass princess Jennifer Lo Conte, glass princess 2025 Karin Raith, mayor of Zwiesel Karl-Heinz Eppinger, glass queen 2025 Océane Reintgen, former glass queen Susanne Glanzner

Then we headed to the festival marquee on the fairground, where the celebrations continued for another 9 days.

This first day was overwhelming, touching, and filled with attention. It completely exceeded my expectations.

Since the beginning of my term, I have already been to the Czech Republic to crown the children of the glass queen of Annín as glass princesses. I have also opened several exhibitions, such as the “Zwieseler Buntspecht,” [“Zwiesel Woodbecker”] where I was able to exhibit my own works, the exhibition “Gefangen im Überfang” [“Trapped in the Overlay”] at the Zwiesel Glass Museum, and the “Glasnacht” [“Glass Night “] in Zwiesel.

I look forward to an exciting term in office with many encounters, new impressions and lots of passion.



The carriage ride to the festival grounds: District commissioner Dr. Ronni Raith, mayor Eppinger, glass queen Océane Reintgen, Bavarian chief minister Hubert Aiwanger



In the marquee with district commissioners, former glass sovereigns and new glass sovereigns



family and friends