John Nelson

ART GLASS

John Nelson is a home remodeler/craftsman by trade who for the past 10 years has studied glass blowing at Elements Glass, a working/teaching facility in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1969 with degrees in graphic arts and psychology. Since graduation he has continually sought artistic expression in a variety of media including painting, collage, furniture design and sculpture.

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New section

Artist Statement

I have always felt an urgency to make things. When I began working with "hot glass', I knew immediately I had found a friend. As an artist medium the classical traditions of glass blowing have evolved dramatically encouraging unlimited forms of expression. Right away I found the thrill of that freedom to experiment and draw inspiration from any source compelling.

Now 10 years later I am still captivated by the richness of possibilities, both mentally and physically, to explore shape, color, light, texture, and emotion that hot glass offers. And then there is the magic-- the way the glass demands focus and suspends time while capturing the mood, the energy, and the emotion of the present moment. The whole journey of working with any piece of hot glass is reflected in the finished piece; the paths explored, the themes developed, merged and continually evolving.

Several years ago, while continuing the blown glass work, I began a series of cast, solid hot glass, sculptural pieces. The cast pieces emerge from my lifelong love affair with found objects which I find intrinsically beautiful. Rusty, decaying metal objects are still alive with their history. Some are simply shapes while others are an homage to the artistry which first created them. As this series has evolved some of the found objects have become "tools" for shaping the glass or creating texture, while others ignite inspiration for conceptual pieces. It is immensely satisfying for me to give these objects another life, to be a part of their continuing story.

Exhibitions

03 Palm Canyon Fine Arts Gallery, Palm Springs, Ca.
2008/2009 The Gallery At Joseph, Joseph, Or.
2009 Oakland Palace Gallery, Oakland,Or.
2008/2010 Mt. Tabor Art Walk - open studio - Portland, Or.
Currently at Love Art Gallery, Portland, Or

Coming Events 2011

Mt. Tabor Art Walk May 21/22 Portland, OR.
Crossroads Carnegie Arts Center June 3 thru June 28
featured artist show with photographer Justin Williams
Baker City, Or.

Gallery info

Studio Gallery open by appointment. 503 319-4173

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