

Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award



Wesley Fleming

Wesley Fleming began working hot glass at the furnace in 2001 and gained valuable experience working for Josh Simpson and the MIT Glass Lab, among others. He has always had an eye for detail and enjoys working for himself, so the switch to flameworking was a logical step. Wesley began sculpting with borosilicate but prefers the more full color palette and longer working time of soft glass.

In 2005 Wesley was afforded the chance of a lifetime to study in Murano with Vittorio Costantini and Lucio Bubacco. Upon gaining knowledge of the Italian technique of sculpting soft glass, Wesley focused his attention solely on creation in this medium, primarily making glass insects for the next two years and later branching out to other phyla of the animal kingdom. As a result of his experience, he was again given the opportunity to work with Vittorio Costanini, but this time as Vittorio's assistant at the 2008 ISGB Gathering in Oakland, California.

Wesley is inspired by nature and seeks to instill this curiosity in others through his re-creation of the more spectacular examples of the animal world, especially insects and birds. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, he spent his days exploring the space beneath logs and rocks or reading science fiction. As a result, the shapes and

colors of the natural world as well as his own wacky imagination are the primary sources for his work.

With his glass insects, Wesley tries to capture and mimic an actual species with intricate detail on the tiny legs and thorax. In other pieces, he attempts to bring into being creatures from his inner reality. Regardless of the end result, he finds great joy in sculpting glass, witnessing the transformation of a brittle and cold substance to a molten and pliable material, then back to a solid form again.

Visit www.wesleyfleming.com to discover more about Wesley Fleming's work.

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How many artists will be featured?

The award is given to twelve lamp-working artists a year, one of whom will become the Glasscraft Emerging Artist.