

# Quest for Fire

Written and photographed by Scott Price

Filip Vogelpohl was born in the Prague Czech Republic in 1977, moving to Salzburg, Vienna in 1982. The Vogelpohl's final destination was Boise, Idaho in 1986. Having been fortunate to revisit Europe many times since has broadened Filip's outlook on glass art as well.

Filip's first experience with flameworking came in 1996. A friend had a nice two bay studio built into his garage. The flame, heat and overall manipulation of glass was astonishing to Filip in almost a medieval sense. Right away Filip bought a national 3A burner and went to work. He learned the basics from his first teacher, but more importantly gained the confidence to experiment and create whatever came to mind. In essence, "to go with the Flow".

Needing more information, Filip wanted to learn new techniques and associate with other glass artists. Travelling was next on his list. As a glass artist, he needed these experiences. Everyone in Boise at the time used the same techniques until all their work started blending together. Knowing some west coast blowers in Bellingham and Eugene, Filip put on his travelling shoes.

The first lesson learned was that lampworkers in 1996 still held their secrets close... from covering work stations with dropcloths to misdirecting him with bad techniques. "People were not as open as they are now. Of course that was before Glass Alchemy, Eugene Glass School or the workshops at Glasscraft" says Vogelpohl. Needless to say it was a struggle to move forward.

"It is now possible to take a variety of classes as well as private workshops. A person can learn from famed glassworkers from America as well as abroad. The internet has increased the opportunity for communication with your peers, making it possible to brainstorm and share information which has helped push the envelope of lampworking, especially borosilicate. I think the overall goal should be to learn, work, share and inspire each other in as many ways as possible."



Filip has taken classes all over from many talented artists such as Kevin O'Grady, Robert Mickelsen, Cesare Tofollo and Roger Parramore. "Each artist has a certain technique they specialize in... and if you are able to incorporate a variety of techniques, you will soon have your own unique style. Think of it as being a mechanic... the more tools you have to work with the more things you can do."

Filip Vogelpohl recently opened up his own studio, gallery and workshop in Boise. This was only after many months of planning and long hours. There are stations available for rent, as well as workshops taught by Filip. It has been a great and fantastic journey thus far and he looks forward to it each and every day. "Remember that nothing is impossible, live your dream... and think BIG!!!"

"Special thanks to Scott Price at Planet Marble L.L.C. for the great support, Dan Grumbling for a fantastic mold and to all those that have made this journey such a wonderful experience" - Filip Vogelpohl

Marble shown at actual size - 5" borosilicate vortex marble. For inquiries of Filip's work (208) 377- 8438 Planetmarble.