

Glass World

When Team Lone Star set out to choose our idea for this competition, we were slightly overwhelmed. Since this was a competition, we knew that we would give ourselves the best chance for success by allowing the members to use their skills in concert. However, this did not just mean sticking each of our “best or most impressive work” together. It had to also make sense aesthetically and be held together with a strong concept. We approached many ideas of all types, thinking about scale and using the unique properties of thirty-three to make large, impressive work that could be seen from the stands.



Developing the Concept

The progression of this idea produced natural subject matter such as trees, coral, and flowers that can be clustered to form amazing compositions on a large scale, yet with relatively simple execution. We realized, however, that it was likely that one or more of the other teams would choose a similar concept—which they did, with such impressive work that we were glad we chose a different path.

Finally one of us said, “What if we make a piece that could literally be used as a logo for this event?” The event is international and is about glass bringing us together and being a catalyst for this amazing scene we have created. I could feel energy surging through me as these words were spoken. We had our concept. Now it was time to figure out how to make it.

Working Together

Once again we looked at our collective skill set and started handing out homework. Micah had already been doing this crazy web-work technique that would clearly give us our basic planet shape. It was finally decided that Christian’s skills would be best used in two different ways. The first was a concept that involved a spearlike element of classic Venetian shapes to penetrate the globe and act as an axis of support similar to that of a classroom globe. The second was the idea that the globe would sit on the cup of a very low and wide Tazza goblet. Although it was a little more risky, the world sitting in one of the most classic Venetian shapes would best speak to the idea of paying homage to the old masters and how we benefit from them.

Finally we had to figure out the continents. The first few ideas failed miserably, but Micah had an idea up his Kevlar sleeve and it worked like a champ. We ended up blowing 50 mm x 7 mm tubing into large flat bubbles, cutting the sides out, and flaying open the vessel like a clam shell. Once the glass was flattened into an ameba-like sheet, we carefully used scissors, other glass, and whatever was available to add and subtract material and create the coastline of each continent.

We watched as Luken pioneered a variation of the technique to achieve the scale and versatility needed for the finished piece. With the help of a hand-drawn paper cutout, we were able to make unbelievably accurate continents that were also flat. Kevin and Luken played with different finishes and finally decided that a blend of frit would read best as land. Designing the continents to hang with hooks from our webbed earth would solve some of our time-crunch issues and logistical problems. All the while Christian was trying to work to the extremely challenging scale for our Tazza bowl.

Now that we had momentum, our conversations about the piece were heated and exciting. Our submission spoke to our concept even more that we had intended. The globe is made of these tiny connections of cobalt glass, each doing its part to hold it all together and each having its place in the whole. We looked at our scene as a whole being made up of small connections, only these connections are the relationships that we have with each other, the sole reason we can have an event such as this. That said, our Glass World is meant to join the IHGI in helping to build and enrich those connections and bring us all closer.

Glass Craft & Bead Expo

April 7th - 11th 2010



Classes are April 7th-11th
and Exhibit Hall is open
April 9th-11th

South Point Hotel & Casino,
9777 Las Vegas Blvd, S.
Las Vegas, NV 89123

Visit www.glasscraftexpo.com
for more show information
and to register for classes
and hotel rooms.



Christian
Luginger



Kevin Ivey



Salt



Micah Evans

A Secret Weapon

Amazingly we had over a dozen members of our own local scene come out to Vegas for the event. While we would have all agreed that our scene was pretty connected, the event really helped us bond and strengthen our connections. They truly made the experience that much more amazing and embodied our concept. We want to give those folks a special thanks. While in the final stages of preparation, our discussion about how this whole thing would go down produced a secret weapon! Kevin designed and printed over 100 T-shirts, and then in the spirit of showmanship we blasted dozens of them into the crowd with a high-pressure air gun. This was probably the most fun we have ever had blowing glass. Micah would like to personally apologize to the concession stand attendee that he picked off with a 3X black. Thanks . . . Don't mess with Texas!



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