

# Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award



## Brandon Martin

In the summer of 1997 with only a used Victor cutting torch and a rusted Folgers can half full of loose vermiculite, Brandon Martin began working with glass while attending the Art Institute of Minnesota, where he earned a degree in computer animation. The smooth flow and unique feel of the glass was hard to resist, especially when compared to the prospect of sitting in front of a computer all day.

Working from the attic of an old house that he rented near the campus, Brandon improved daily, both technically and artistically. Honing his skills by reading the relatively few books that were available along with good old-fashioned trial and error, he taught himself the fine art of blowing glass.

Originally starting with simple beads and pendants, within a short time Brandon was pushing the boundaries of his knowledge, working larger and ever more complex pieces and techniques. His constantly evolving style is always heading in new directions, but ever present in the design is his respect for the natural world through many of the organic forms used in his designs.

In recent years, Brandon's work has begun to transcend the shapes usually associated with traditional lampworking and now incorporates many influences from outside the sometimes insular world of traditional glassblowing. His unique style involves clever variations of old-school methods alongside innovative new tech-

niques such as layered, fumed work; distinctive wire wrapping; copper electroforming; and the integration of a variety of minerals. Currently, Brandon can be found creating new designs from his studio in St. Paul, Minnesota, where his dog Aura keeps him from becoming a fire-breathing hermit.

Visit Brandon's website at [www.glassbybrandon.com](http://www.glassbybrandon.com) to view a showcase of his latest work.

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### *How can I qualify for this award?*

Please join us by participating in the Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award. Just send your artist profile (200 to 250 words), high resolution digital photos of your work, contact information and photographer's name on CD to:

Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award,  
c/o The Flow, PO Box 125,  
Marietta, TX 75566