

Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award



Bryan Ratcliffe

Bryan Ratcliffe grew up in the mountains of Evergreen, Colorado, and was inspired by the unique geography found there and the wildlife that inhabits the area. With a painter/sculptor for a mother and a snowcat builder for a father, Bryan was destined to create. It all started early in life with oven-baked clay and LEGOs. By the time he was in the eighth grade, ceramic art had completely captivated Bryan's imagination, and by the eleventh grade, Bryan had earned five golden keys at the Colorado High School Portfolio Review. His work was subsequently displayed in Washington, D.C., in a national high school portfolio exhibition.

After a little break to snowboard in Summit County, Bryan enrolled in Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. With a great ceramics department and Crested Butte so close, it was definitely a good time. Glass and ceramics became his focus. In 2000 Bryan graduated from Western with a BFA in ceramics. His senior show was entitled *Sex Cells* and consisted of flower pistils and stamens created with glass and ceramic.

Since his graduation, Bryan has been enjoying the geography and climate of the Pacific Northwest. He had the pleasure of competing in the inaugural *Flame Off* with his shopmate and friend Marbleslinger. Working in a shop with Marbleslinger has definitely opened Bryan's eyes even wider to the endless possibilities in glass, and he has recently had the good fortune to serve as teaching assistant for Chris McElroy at Red Deer College and Andrighetti Glassworks.

Having grown up as a little skate, snow, and bike rat, Bryan loves to make a strong statement. His recent political pieces are intended to expand his artistic vocabulary while keeping current world issues in the public eye.



More of Bryan's work can be viewed at
www.glassartists.org/Gal998_work_by_bryan_ratcliffe.

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What is the Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award?

The Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award will be awarded to up-and-coming flameworking artists who have demonstrated outstanding skill and who have contributed to the lampworking community through technical and artistic innovation.