

GLASSCRAFT EMERGING ARTIST AWARD

MAGNUM MANGKANG

As a college student, Magnum Mangkang developed a fascination with glass art that led him out of the classroom and into a professional studio environment at the age of 20. In 1996, he began an apprenticeship with Atlanta-based Frabel Studios and was introduced to Hans Frabel's technique of flameworking.

"My early experience as an apprentice was very technique-driven, because I had absolutely no experience with the medium. I would spend months pulling points to exacting standards. It was this very traditional type of craft apprenticeship, emphasizing fundamentals and precision, that led me to understand the intricacies of glass and the importance of quality."

Over the next nine years, Magnum evolved as one of Frabel Studio's leading flameworkers creating production and original designs for clients around the world. His artistic tendencies began to steadily influence his design sensibilities as he became increasingly interested in organic forms that emphasized the delicate, fluid capabilities of hot glass.

Eventually, Magnum's interest in creating original works of art led him to create his own studio in 2005.

"It was difficult to make the decision to step out on my own, but I knew I needed the change to allow my work to evolve. When I began to look at my work and myself in artistic terms, and not just in terms of mastering a certain technique, that was a major turning point in my career."

As an independent artist, Magnum's childhood in Thailand as well as indigenous art from around the world constantly influence his singular style. He remains focused on evolving his craft by continuing to learn from masters such as Gary

Beecham, Paul Stankard & Robert Mickelsen. Currently, Magnum is creating a body of work that draws heavily from the natural world through his use of color, texture and non-functional form.

"I am at a point where I have given myself complete permission to explore my medium. Sometimes it is frustrating because it means that I have to let pieces evolve very slowly and take chances that I have never had to take in my work as a production artist. But, in another sense, I am creating my own vision as an artist, working to define interesting new directions in flameworking. This is what motivates me to stay focused and reminds me that I am part of something ancient and completely new each time I walk into my studio."

