

MATTHEW J. PASKIET

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Biography

Matthew Paskiet is a native to *The Glass City*, Toledo, Ohio. He currently resides in Holland, Ohio with his wife and 2 kids. He began his study of glassblowing at The Toledo Museum of Art in 1993 and continued his studies at Pilchuck Glass School in Washington state in 1998, as well as, Fundacio Centre del Vidre in Barcelona in 2001. Matt also refined his skills by assisting Chihuly's Boathouse Studio team in 1999-2000 and multiple esteemed glass artists throughout that time. He later returned back to Toledo and opened Firenation in Holland in 2002, where he has been blowing glass locally ever since. Firenation will be celebrating 16 years in June 2018.

Artist Statement

I see the artist as creator. We take raw material and transform it into objects that hold aesthetic significance, creating beauty from virtually nothing. Despite my critical eye, a sense of wonder emerges every time I cast my first gaze upon a finished piece. The object I hold in my hand today was nothing more than an idea and a pool of molten liquid yesterday.

I choose to work in glass because of its complex nature and rich history. There is something primitive and raw about many of the tools and applications, but the results are often delicately subtle and elegant. Variations in opacity and transparency capture and transform light passing through a given piece, creating an ever changing experience and individual journey. There are few materials that allow for this kind of fluidity and sensual landscape.

My creative style is generally vivacious yet impulsive. It tends to lean towards the abstract and decorative, utilizing shape and color to generate a reaction. Often, new ideas are formed through the internalization of my daily experiences. These seeds take root through experimentation, research and planning, resulting in variations which are loosely tied to the initial idea. Various series like Serene Marine, Spiderweb, and Nebula involve the chaos of movement and the creation of something out of nothing. Another recent project involved 400 flying birds suspended from a ceiling. I wanted to communicate a sense of strength in numbers, unity and diversity. In short, it represents community and family. More often than not, these re-occurring themes blossom in most of my artistic creations.

To me art is a merger between the artist, their experiences and an interpretation of their relationships. A place where the internal, be it cognitive or subconscious, gels with raw external materials. This process of thoughtfully combining the internal and external is the function of the artist. And the result...is 'living' art.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 **Residency Artist**, St. Vincent Ferrer School, Cincinnati, OH
Juror, *Crosby Festival of the Arts*, Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo, OH
- 2017 **Residency Artist**, Glass Axis/ OAC, Columbus, OH
- 2016 **Residency Artist**, Ottawa Hills Jr. High, Ottawa Hills, OH
Juror, *Black Swamp Arts Festival*, Bowling Green, OH
- 2015 **Residency Artist**, Northwest High School, Portsmouth, OH
Juror, *Crosby Festival of the Arts*, Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo, OH
- 2014 **Iron, Glass and Wood Invitational Symposium**, Penland School of Craft, Penland, NC.
Juror, *Crosby Festival of the Arts*, Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo, OH
- 2013 **Residency Artist**, Bittersweet Farms, Whitehouse, OH
Residency Artist, TPS, Beverly Elementary School, Toledo, OH
Residency Artist, Maumee Valley Country Day School, Toledo, OH
Guest Artist, *A Thousand Words Exhibit*, Bittersweet Farms, Whitehouse, OH
- 2012 **Residency Artist**, Bittersweet Farms, Whitehouse, OH
Residency Artist, Toledo Public Schools, Birmingham Elementary, Toledo, OH
Residency Artist, Greenfield Village School, Greenfield, OH
Juror, *Crosby Festival of the Arts*, Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo, OH
- 2011 **Residency Artist**, Toledo Public Schools, Garfield Elementary, Toledo, OH
Residency Artist, Ohio Arts Council Arts Learning Program, Butler County, OH
Assistant Hot Shop Coordinator, Penland School of Crafts, NC
Studio Assistant to Simon Maberley, Penland School of Crafts, NC
- 2010 **Residency Artist**, Ohio Arts Council Arts Learning Program, OH
Guest Judge, *Crosby Festival of the Arts*, Toledo Botanical Garden, Toledo, OH
- 2002-Present **Owner & Artistic Director**, Firenation, Ltd. Glass Studio and Gallery, Holland, OH
- 2009 **Consultant**, American Diabetes Association Celebrity Art Auction, Toledo, OH
Guest Judge, *Focus Art Show*, Center for Visual Arts, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Residency Artist, Ohio Arts Council Arts Learning Program, Ohio
- 2008 **Guest Judge**, *Harrison Rally Day Festival*, Perrysburg, OH
- 1999-2000 **Assistant Glassblower**, The Boathouse, Chihuly Inc. Seattle, WA
Assistant Glassblower, Eastlake Art Glass. Seattle, WA
- 1999 **Board Member**, Spectrum Friends of Fine Art, Toledo, OH
- 1997 **Board Member**, Spectrum Friends of Fine Art, Toledo, OH
- 1994 **Instructor**, *Glassblowing*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Instructor, *Hot Glass Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH

AWARDS

- 2018 **2018 Best of Toledo Winner**, Best Visual Artist (Glass), Best Independent Gallery (Firenation), Toledo City Paper, Toledo, OH
Purchase Award Winner- Desert Web, ADC Gallery, Art Comes Alive 2018, Cincinnati, OH
Board of Directors Award- Chalcedony Web, Greenwich House Gallery, ViewPoint 50, 2018, Cincinnati, OH
Honorable Mention- Dense Seascape Globe, 311 Gallery, Landscapes & Seascapes Juried Show 2018, Raleigh, NC
ACA Purchase Award, Midnight Web, ADC Gallery, Blink Art Showcase, Cincinnati, OH
2018 Readers Choice Winner, Best Gift Shop (Firenation), Toledo City Paper (MLiving), Toledo, OH
First Place Sculpture- Desert Web, Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, 46th International Art Show, Brownsville, TX
Honorable Mention- Lagoon Web Vessel, 311 Gallery, Abstracts Juried Show, Raleigh, NC
- 2017 **2017 Best of Toledo Winner**, Best Visual Artist (Glass), Best Independent Gallery (Firenation), Toledo City Paper, Toledo, OH
- 2016 **Top Marks Award**, Mighty Tieton Warehouse, 10x10x10xTieton, Tieton, WA

- Category Winner Award & Excellence in Craft Award**, ADC Gallery, Art Comes Alive, Cincinnati, OH
- 2015 **Best in Glass**, Zanesville Museum of Art, 72nd Ohio Annual Exhibition, Zanesville, OH
- 2014 **Category Winner Award**, ADC Gallery, Art Comes Alive, Cincinnati, OH
- 2013 **Honorable Mention**, The Ceramics Center, Playdate, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 2011 **Juror's Award**, Arc Gallery, Structure Exhibit, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 **Dominick Labino Award**, Ohio Designer Craftsmen, Columbus, OH
- 2009 **2010 Best of Toledo**, Best Glass Artist, Toledo City Paper, Toledo, OH
- 2007 **2008 Best of Toledo**, Best Glass Artist, Toledo City Paper, Toledo, OH
- 2004 **Dominick Labino Award**, Ohio Designer Craftsmen, Columbus, OH
- Dominick Labino Memorial Award**, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- Purchase Award**, Black Swamp Art Festival, Bowling Green, OH
- 2003 **First Place**, Lake Eola "Fiesta in the Park", Orlando, FL
- First Place**, Mansfield Art Center, Mansfield, OH
- Purchase Award**, Black Swamp Art Festival, Bowling Green, OH
- First Place**, Old West End Festival of the Arts, Toledo, OH
- 2002 **Purchase Award**, Black Swamp Art Festival, Bowling Green, OH
- 1997 **Best in Glass**, Birmingham Temple Art Show, Farmington Hills, MI
- Best in Show**, Spectrum Gallery, Toledo, OH
- 1996 **Committee Award**, Collingwood Arts Center, Toledo, OH

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 **Button Gallery**, *Shoreline*, Douglas, MI
- The Bonifas Fine Arts Center**, *Fires Around the Lakes*, Escanaba, MI
- Morean Arts Center**, *2019 Glass Art Society Member Exhibition*, St. Petersburg, FL
- 2018 **The Center for Contemporary Art**, *2018 International Juried Exhibition*, Bedminster, NJ
- ADC Gallery**, *Art Comes Alive 2018*, Cincinnati, OH
- HeART Gallery**, *Emerging Artists*, Toledo, OH
- Greenwich House Gallery**, *ViewPoint 50, 2018*, Cincinnati, OH
- 311 Gallery**, *Landscapes & Seascapes Juried Show 2018*, Raleigh, NC
- Arts Commission of Greater Toledo**, *Momentum | Hot Glass Exhibition*, Momentum Arts Festival, Toledo, OH
- Verum Ultimatum Art Gallery**, *5th Annual Living Mark Exhibition*, Portland, OR
- Zanesville Museum of Art**, *73rd Ohio Annual Exhibition* Zanesville, OH
- ADC Gallery**, *Blink Art Showcase award winner*, Cincinnati, OH
- Wayne Art Center Davenport Gallery**, *12th Annual Plein Air Festival*, Wayne, PA
- Brownsville Museum of Fine Art**, *46th International Art Show*, First Place Sculpture, Brownsville, TX
- Ohio Designer Craftsmen**, *Best of 2018*, Columbus, OH
- Arts Commission of Greater Toledo**, *The Mix Beacon*, Toledo, OH
- 311 Gallery**, *Abstracts Juried Show*, Honorable Mention, Raleigh, NC
- The Tubac Center of the Arts**, *Earth Exhibition*, Tubac, AZ
- The River Arts Center**, *3rd Biennial Wings and Water*, Prairie du Sac, WI
- 2017 **Studio Channel Islands**, *Good Things Come in Small Packages*, Camarillo, CA
- Wayne Art Center Davenport Gallery**, *Craft Forms 2017: 23rd International Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Fine Craft*, Wayne, PA
- ADC Gallery**, *Art Comes Alive 2017*, Cincinnati, OH
- Indiana Glass Arts Alliance**, *Gathering: Contemporary Glass from the Heartland 2017*, Indianapolis, IN
- Arts Commission of Greater Toledo**, *Hot Shots Collaboration*, Momentum festival, Toledo, OH
- Allegheny Arts Council's Saville Gallery**, *Hot Glass Exhibition*, Cumberland, MD.
- Riffe Gallery**, *2nd Riffe Gallery Biennial Juried Exhibition*, Columbus, OH
- River Centre Gallery**, *Colourfall*, Solo Show, Sylvania, OH

Mighty Tieton Warehouse, 10x10x10xTieton, 8th Annual International Small Works Exhibition, Tieton, WA
Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, 36th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition, Birmingham, MI
Ohio Arts Council, 2017 Spotlight: Featured 3-D Artist at the Ohio Governor's Residence, Columbus, OH
Core New Art Space, Blue Show, Denver, CO
Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, The Mix Blo Out, Toledo, OH
Goggle Works, 11th Annual Juried Exhibition, Reading, PA
National Liberty Museum, Glass Now Auction 2017, Philadelphia, PA
Ohio Designer Craftsmen, Best of 2017 Columbus, OH
Sarratt Gallery at Vanderbilt University, Color in Space, Solo Exhibition, Nashville, TN
Janice Charach Gallery, Michigan Regional Glass Exhibition, West Bloomfield, MI
Peninsula Art Academy, Warm and Hot in Peninsula, Peninsula, OH
Prizm Creative Community, Breaking Ground: A Retrospective of Progress, Toledo, OH
Brownsville Museum of Fine Art, 45th International Art Show, Brownsville, TX
UMHS Gifts of Art Gallery, Seascapes, Solo Exhibition, Ann Arbor, MI
Brentwood Arts Exchange, Spiderwebs, Front Window Feature, Brentwood, MD
2016 **uBe Art**, My Scape: an exhibition of Landscapes, Cityscapes, and Interiorscapes, Berkeley, CA
The Bascom, 2016 American Art Today: What is American Art?, Highlands, NC
The Studio Door, National Exhibition: Galactic Pleasures, San Diego, CA
Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Hot Glass Exhibit and Auction (Sold), Toledo, OH
National Liberty Museum, Glass Now Auction 2016 (Sold), Philadelphia, PA
Mighty Tieton Warehouse, 10x10x10xTieton (Top Marks Award), 7th Annual International Small Works Exhibition, Tieton, WA
ADC Gallery, Art Comes Alive 2016 (Category Winner Award & Excellence in Craft Award), Cincinnati, OH
Toledo School for the Arts, Vesseled Out, Solo Exhibition, Toledo, OH
Zanesville Museum of Art, 72nd Ohio Annual Exhibition (Best in Glass), Zanesville, OH
Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, The Mix, Toledo, OH
WCA-CO, State of Unions, National Juried Show, Denver, CO
Ohio Designer Craftsmen, Best of 2016, Columbus, OH
Pittsburgh Glass Center, Lifeforms 2016, Online Gallery Show
River Arts Center, 2nd Biennial Wings and Water, Prairie du Sac, WI
2015 **National Liberty Museum**, Glass Now Auction 2015, PA
Indianapolis Art Center, Gathering, Indianapolis, IN
ADC Gallery, Art Comes Alive 2015 (Category Winner Award), Cincinnati, OH
Goggle Works, Ways of making Invitational, Reading, PA
Peninsula Art Academy, Warm and Hot in Peninsula, Peninsula, OH
2014 **Janice Charach Gallery**, Michigan Regional Glass Exhibition, West Bloomfield, MI
The Hsinchu Glass Museum, International Glass Arts Festival, Hsinchu, Taiwan
ADC Gallery, Art Comes Alive 2014, Cincinnati, OH
The Ceramics Center, Playdate (Honorable Mention), Cedar Rapids, IA
UMHS Gifts of Art Gallery, Gifts of Art, Solo Exhibition, Ann Arbor, MI
The Oliver House, A Flight of Color, Toledo, OH
2013 **Arc Gallery**, Structure Exhibit (Jurors Award), San Francisco, CA
Indiana Glass Arts Alliance, Gathering, Kokomo, IN
Toledo Museum of Art, 94th Toledo Area Artists, Toledo, OH
Gathered Art Gallery, Figurative Exhibit, Toledo, OH
Kittrell Riffkind, Artist Series Exhibition, Dallas, TX
2012 **Ohio Designer Craftsmen**, Best of 2012, Columbus, OH
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH
Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, Hot Glass Exhibit, Toledo OH
Café: Art Online, Nude Nite Exhibit, Tampa, FL
Kittrell Riffkind, One of a Kind Exhibit, Dallas, TX
Hudson Gallery, Now Wow Exhibit, Toledo, OH

- 2011 **20 North Gallery**, *Art For All Souls Exhibit*, Toledo, OH
Toledo Studio Art Glass, *Four Generations Exhibit*, Toledo, OH
Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, *The Vertical Mix Exhibit*, Toledo, OH
Ohio Designer Craftsmen, *Dominic Labino Excellence in Glass Award*, Columbus, OH
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus, OH
MADE, *New Hope Arts Center Exhibit*, New Hope, PA
- 2010 **Arts Commission of Greater Toledo**, *Hot Glass Exhibit*, Toledo, OH
- 2009 **Toledo Museum of Art**, *91st Toledo Area Artists Exhibition*, Toledo, OH
William Bonifas Fine Arts Center, *Fires Around the Lakes: Ten Years After*, Escanaba, MI
Hoover Auditorium, *Murrini Plates*, Lakeside, OH
- 2008 **Parkwood Gallery**, *Firenation & Friends*, Toledo OH
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, *Toledo Studio Glass Art – 4 Generations*, Canton, MI
Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery, *Area Sculpture: Inside Out*, Toledo, OH
Georgetown Plaza, *Glass 3*, Washington, DC
Parkwood Gallery, *Glass 3*, Toledo, OH
Parkwood Gallery, *Toledo Area Glass*, Toledo, OH
Ohio Designer Craftsmen, *Best of 2008*, Columbus, OH
- 2007 **Ohio Designer Craftsmen**, *Best of 2007*, Columbus, OH
- 2006 **Ohio Designer Craftsmen**, *Best of 2006*, Columbus, OH
- 2005 **Toledo Museum of Art**, *Toledo Area Artists*, Toledo, OH
Ohio Designer Craftsmen, *Best of 2005*, Columbus, OH
- 2004 **Toledo Museum of Art**, *Toledo Area Artists*, Toledo, OH
20 North Gallery, *Contemporary Glass*, Toledo, OH
- 2003 **The Mansfield Art Center**, *Beauty Born of Fire Contemporary Glass in Ohio*, Mansfield OH
- 1997 **Spectrum Gallery**, *Members Show*, Toledo, OH
- 1996 **Glass Art Society**, *International Student Show*, Tucson, AZ
Collingwood Art Center, *Salon de Refuse*, Toledo, OH

EDUCATION

- 2001 **Barcelona Centro de Vidre**, Barcelona, Spain.
Therman Statom, *Centennial Celebration Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 1998 **Pilchuck Glass School**, Pilchuck, WA
Tom Pati, *Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 1996 **Marvin Lipofsky**, *Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Robert Carlson, *Painting on Glass Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 1995 **Dino Rosin**, *Workshop*, Glass Art Society Conference, Boston, MA
Geoff Beetham, *Marbles Workshop*, Glass Axis, Columbus, OH
Throwing Copper on Glass, *Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Therman Statom, *Workshop, Artist in Residence*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 1994 **Joel Philip Meyers**, *Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
Dale Chihuly and Team, *Workshop*, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH
- 1993 **Bachelor of Technology in Construction**, Bowling Green State University.
Bowling Green, OH

CUSTOM GLASS

- 2018 **Jobs-Ohio**, Classic Spiderweb Sculpture for Fuyao Glass Co. in China
Made in USA Brand, Pinnacle Teardrops, National Hardware Show, Las Vegas, NV