

GAS News

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GLASS ART
SOCIETY



Kerrick Johnson, "Cadence," 2009, 44" x 10" x 5.5"



Kerrick Johnson, "Gossamer," 2008, 37" x 12" x 6"

All images shown are hand-blown glass with color, carved and polished and mounted on handcrafted stainless base



Kerrick Johnson, "Convergence," (detail), 2008, 14" x 36-48" x 11"

Member Profile

Kerrick Johnson

By Scott Benefield

Kerrick Johnson is an emerging artist whose work attempts to bring the material qualities of hot glass sculpting and cold-working processes into balance. The forms that he works with emphasize the fluidity of glass in a plastic state as it is shaped through heat and gravity; but the work is brought to a finish only in the cold shop, as it is heavily faceted with lenses that exploit the unique optical qualities of glass.

"I make work to represent exactly what glass is. The transparency of glass requires the creator to pay homage equally to the interior quality as well as the surface quality," said Johnson.

The forms are generally sinuous, tapering shapes that have no specific associations, but rather convey a stylized curviness – the uninterrupted curve that connotes the natural flow of molten glass, but which is actually the product of a

very controlled process of sculpting. The design of the work has less to do with the observation of natural forms than it does the careful work of a French curve.

Johnson's skill and precision as a cold-worker, which he lavishes on his sculpted elements in a series of engraved grooves, sunbursts, and ribbons, adds complexity and a profusion of small-scale detail to his work. The cuts are mirrored on the opposing sides of the sculptures, creating engaging, optical phenomena within each fluid form.

"The true character comes to life once the work is engraved," says Johnson. "The texture adds individuality, personality, and identity. The location of the textures starts to create a body, then a front, then a rear. The surrounding environment is bounced around the interior so that the atmosphere is absorbed by the work. As the viewer moves, the colors and textures

start to move. Every perspective, every light source, every atmosphere becomes part of the piece. The glass becomes part of the environment and environment becomes part of the piece."

Johnson was educated at a magnet high school for fine arts in Greenville, SC, and received his B.F.A. in Glass from the Appalachian Center for Crafts under Curtiss Brock in 2002. He has been the recipient of awards in recognition of his work, including several Student Niche awards and an Allied Arts grant in support of his new studio construction in Chattanooga, TN. Johnson exhibits his work nationally at retail shows and is represented by Pismo Gallery.

Image Gallery

To see more of Kerrick Johnson's work, [click here.](#)