

# Jack Storms

## Biography

Artist Jack Storms' eyes light up as he studies the glass sculpture twisting and turning in the sunlight just outside his studio. A kaleidoscope of color dances across the ground choreographed by the refracted light as he shifts the angle of the piece in his hands.

Working with dichroic glass encased in pure lead crystal - a rare and exacting cold-glass process fully understood by few artists in the world - Storms may invest up to 10 weeks creating a single piece. Yet because he starts a new sculpture every other day, the process moves forward, and the result is prodigious, luminous, unique.

Storms has further distinguished his work by inventing a cold-working lathe, enabling him to sculpt his embedded-crystal pieces into luminous wine bottles, candlesticks, footballs, baseball bats; any curved shape that can normally be turned on a wooden lathe.

"It is this level of innovation," says Storms, "that enables me to apply my techniques to a broader range of sculpture, and sets me apart from everyone else working in optic glass. My art is informed by my awareness of art history, my understanding of art, my knowledge of technique. It is defined by an inherent fascination of and respect for glass; knowing I have only begun to realize its potential further pushes the design of my sculpture."

Born and raised in New Hampshire, and educated at what is now Plymouth State University, Storms commenced with a bachelor's degree in art with an emphasis in studio production. When the events of 9-11 derailed his initial plans, he decided to fortify his resume by learning about the Optical Crystal Sculptures at the Toland Sand Glass Studio,

Jack initially worked assisting in production of the pieces with Toland. He was so passionate about this work he soon was able to work in all phases of construction. This included the cutting, bonding and polishing of each piece. This was a major accomplishment as currently only two people in the world are were creating these incredible optic sculptures. Toland was so impressed he set up a studio in Carmel Valley, California where Jack alone had complete control over the production of each sculpture. He managed the Carmel Valley Studio until he embarked on his solo career in 2004.

"I quickly realized this medium was speaking to me even more than it was to my mentor," says Storms. "I wasn't content to reproduce product. My ideas about glass and what I could do with it were innovative; I had to investigate its potential – and mine."

Since its debut, Storms' work has achieved both personal recognition and public merit. His sculpture has been juried into the BAGI (Bay Area Glass Institute) and Pilchuck auctions for five years in a row, and his piece, "Bella Vino," won the coveted People's Choice Award at the 2007 BAGI Awards. The Carmel Valley Rotary Club commissioned a sculpture to be presented as an

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emissarial gift to the President of Nigeria, marking the establishment of the first blood bank to open in Africa.

Recent commissions & shows include:

1. Wine bottle trophy for the Wine 2.0 Business Plan Competition which Curios Marketing Solutions took home as 2010 grand prize winner.
2. Juried into shows at SOFA Chicago 2010 and SOFA New York 2011 and Beth El art show in Florida.
3. Commission for an optic crystal baseball bat for a top star in baseball (to be named after presentation).
4. Commissioned for the City of Pleasanton's Fire House Art's Center. This has been a two-year project which will be unveiled officially on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. Commissioned for an optic crystal replica of for the newly launched NY2O water company. September 2011

The demand for Jack's work is at an all time high and his career is rocketing into the future.