

BRENDEN SCOTT FRENCH

Brenden Scott French has earned a reputation as one of Australia's most innovative and thought-provoking glass artists. His sculptural forms and wall pieces make a radical shift away from the delicacy and transparency of glass - instead they exhibit a unique density and opacity of colour. The striking pattern and form developed in the artworks reflect a deep exploration of this rich and versatile material. Brenden's graphic panel works arise from a kilnforming process where blocks of coloured glass are composed in layers to form spontaneous, yet harmonious, colour relationships. He describes this act as "a labour of assemblage", slowly revealing an unfolding narrative that celebrates the passage of time during the creation of the works. Complex visceral surfaces are built using the distinct technique of pâte de verre and murrine roll-up. Here, a panel is constructed using fused granules or cut rods of glass, giving Brenden the ability to generate subtle painterly qualities. Once heated, the sheets of glass can be rolled, blown and shaped to form intricate vessels. As Kerry-Anne Cousins observed in her 2022 review of his exhibition "The work of Brenden Scott French is always surprising because of his inventive approach to glass. The intellectual component of his work - the structural framework of his art practice - is matched in its realisation by his creative skill." Colour and form in the artworks play with ideas of the interior and exterior, organic and geometric, ultimately questioning our individual, as well as collective, relationship with the environment.

Brenden has trained extensively in glass practice, completing a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the Sydney College of the Arts in 1997 and a Bachelor of Art with Honours at the Canberra School of Art in 2003. Brenden has undertaken residencies at the Canberra Glassworks, University of South Australia and the Northlands Creative Glass Centre in Scotland. He has received numerous awards including the Ian Potter Cultural Trust Award (2001), the Lino Tagliapietra International Scholarship to study at the Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle (2001) and the Stephen Procter Fellowship (2007). Brenden's work is in several collections including the National Glass Collection in Australia and the Tacoma Museum of Glass and Boston Museum of Fine Arts in the USA.

BIOGRAPHY

- 1969 Born Toowoomba, Qld
- 1997 Bachelor of Visual Arts, Sydney College of the Arts
- 1999 Associate of Design, Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design, Adelaide
- 2000 Artist in Residence, University of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2003 Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Canberra School of Art glass workshop, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2007 Artist in Residence, Northlands Creative Glass Centre, Scotland, UK
Artist in Residence, Canberra Glassworks
Artist in Residence, Glass workshop, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2012-15 Arts SA Individual makers and Presenters Peer Assessment Panel Member
- 2014 Artist in residence, Museum of Glass, Washington, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 "Parallel carriage", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2021 "Temporal looping", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2019 "Sounding rebellion", Australian Contemporary
- 2018 "Received landscapes", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2017 "Western Ridge", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2015 "Colour remains", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 "Futures Pass Remains", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
- 2011 "Open negative", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 "Future pass ...and other short stories", Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide
- 2007 "Artefact of the Accident - Predator", Canberra Glassworks
"Artefact of the Accident", Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 "The study", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2020 "Salute XV – new work in ceramics, glass & fibre", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2019 Klaus Moje Glass Award, Canberra Glassworks
"The hot shop – Masters of glass", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2018 Sydney Contemporary (Sabbia Gallery)
"Sketch – Masters of glass", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
Fuse Glass Prize, Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide
- 2017 Tom Malone Prize, Art Gallery of Western Australia
- 2016 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA (Kirra Galleries)
Fuse Glass Prize, Jam Factory Contemporary Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide

- 2014 "Masters of Glass", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
"Terroir", JamFactory at Seppetsfield, Barossa Valley, SA
"Distant horizons", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne
- 2013 "Master Glass 2", BMGArt, Adelaide
"Canberra Glass 2013", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
"Landscape - Masters of Glass", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
"Ten Squared", Canberra Glassworks
"Designing Craft- Crafting 40 years of JamFactory", national tour
"Links - Australian glass and the Pacific Northwest", Museum of Glass, Tacoma, USA
"Perspectives - Interior Exterior", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne
"Australian Glass Now", Traver Gallery, Seattle, USA
- 2012 "Small works", Beaver Galleries, Canberra
"Directors Choice", Kirra Gallery, Melbourne
"Waterhouse Art Prize", South Australian Museum, Adelaide
"Transparency", Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 2011 SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
"Master Glass", BMG, Adelaide
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
- 2010 "Masterworks in miniatures", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne
"The sum of parts", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
Imago Gallery, Palm Desert, California, USA
SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)
- 2009 "Look Forward", Traver Gallery, Tacoma, USA
"Collect 09", Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
"Whitehot", Asialink touring show, Gallery of Art and Design Silpakom University, Bangkok, Thailand
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
"Southern lights", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 "In Essence - The Legacy of Stephen Procter", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
"Hunks of Glass", ANCA Gallery, Canberra
- 2007 Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
- 2003 Ranamok Glass Prize, touring nationally
- 2002 "Dialogue", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
Ranamok Glass Prize, touring nationally
- 2001 "A Little Drop of Kindness", Craft ACT, Canberra
"Glass Art in Australia", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
- 2000 "Quadrivium's Finest", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
"South Australian Glass", Despard Gallery, Tasmania
"Visionary – New Australian Glass", Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
RFC Glass Prize, Australia

AWARDS / COMMISSIONS

- 2020 Art Group Creative Fellowship, Canberra Glassworks
Australia Council for the Arts, Career Development Funding
- 2019 Finalist, Klaus Moje Glass Award, Canberra Glassworks
ArtsSA Independent Makers and Presenters Professional Development Assistance, SA
- 2018 Finalist, Fuse Glass Prize, Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 2017 Finalist, Tom Malone Prize, Art Gallery of Western Australia
ArtsSA Independent Makers and Presenters Professional Development Assistance, SA
- 2016 Finalist, Fuse Glass Prize, Jam Factory, Adelaide
- 2013 Finalist, Ranamok Glass Prize, Canberra Glassworks and touring nationally
ArtsSA Independent Makers and Presenters Professional Development Assistance, SA
- 2011 ArtSA Independent Makers and Presenters Professional Development Assistance, SA
- 2009 ArtSA Independent Makers and Presenters Professional Development Assistance, SA
- 2007 Stephen Procter Fellowship, Glass Workshop, Canberra School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2001 Lino Tagliapietra International Scholarship, Pilchuck Glass School, Seattle, USA

2000 The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Award, Ian Potter Foundation, Australia
Finalist RFC Glass Prize, Australia
Emerging Artist Project Development grant, Arts SA, Adelaide

PUBLICATIONS

2022 "Mixing imagination and intellect", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 12 March
2017 "Colourful, varied and rewarding body of work", Kerry-Anne Cousins, *Canberra Times*, 1 August
2015 "Sightlines in Glass and Time: The Art of Brenden Scott French", Ivana Jirasek, *Craft Arts International*, Issue 95
2012 Exhibition preview, Chloe Mandryk, *BMA Magazine*, 8 May
2011 "Landscapes of glass", Annemarie Lopez, *Australian Art Review*, Issue 27

COLLECTIONS

Artbank; Wagga Wagga Art Gallery (National Art Glass Collection), NSW; Andy Plummer Collection, Sydney; Tacoma Museum of Glass, USA; Northlands Creative Glass Collection, Scotland, UK; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; Bullseye Glass Collection, Portland, Oregon, USA; Kaplan Ostergaard Glass Center, Palm Springs, California, USA