

## 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. Brenden's recent residency in the western ridge of the Barossa Valley, South Australia, brought inspiration for a body of work exploring both the external environment and his internal psychological narrative. 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 Artbank and Bullseye Glass Collection, 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

- 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

- 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  
"Masters of Glass", Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 SOFA Chicago, Navy Pier, Chicago, USA (Beaver Galleries)  
"Terroir", JamFactory at Seppetsfield, Barossa Valley, SA  
"Distant horizons", Kirra Galleries, Melbourne  
"Master Glass 2", BMGArt, Adelaide
- 2013 "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

- 2012 "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  
"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**

- 2017 Finalist, Tom Malone Prize, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
ArtsSA Independent Makers and Presenters Professional Development Assistance, SA
- 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 The Stephen Procter Fellowship, Glass Workshop, Canberra School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra
- 2001 Lino Tagliapietra International Scholarship, Pilchuck Glass School, Seattle, USA  
The Ian Potter Cultural Trust Award, Ian Potter Foundation, Australia
- 2000 Finalist RFC Glass Prize, Australia  
Emerging Artist Project Development grant, Arts SA, Adelaide

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2015 "Sightlines in Glass and Time: The Art of Brenden Scott French", Ivana Jirasek, *Craft Arts International*, Issue 95
- 2011 "Landscapes of glass", Annemarie Lopez, *Australian Art Review*, Issue 27

#### **COLLECTIONS**

Artbank; Andy Plummer Collection, Sydney; 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