

Blown Away

According to a Glass Art Society study, the Pacific Northwest is the largest regional hub for glass art in the US, with 38 glass art educational institutions, more than 100 glass art studios, and 700-plus glass artists in Washington State. Thanks to this vibrant network, aspiring glass artists can learn a variety of techniques and methods for working with glass from highly skilled instructors.

Glass Act

Glass artists have a variety of ways to manipulate and shape glass. These include...

Hot methods use a flame or furnace to manipulate molten glass:

- Blowing: melting glass in a furnace, inflating it into a bubble using a blowpipe, and shaping it with tools like paddles, and jacks (giant tweezers)
- Casting: pouring molten glass into a mold, then letting it cool until it is solid
- Lampworking/Flamework: a torch is used to melt the glass instead of a furnace then shaped in ways similar to blown glass, but on a smaller scale

Warm methods heat glass (usually in a kiln) until it is just hot enough that it fuses together or takes the shape of a mold.

Cold methods include the various ways in which glass can be cut, carved, etched, and sanded down to change its shape or texture.

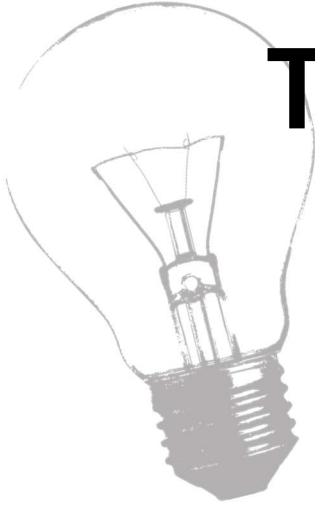
Artists often use multiple methods to achieve their vision:



In **stained glass** (left), hot and warm methods are used to create large sheets of glass, then cold methods are used to cut the sheets into pieces and add more decorations before **soldering** them together.

These Tlingit baskets (right) by Preston Singletary were blown with multiple layers of color at once and then **sandblasted** to reveal color and texture.





Translucent Bowls



Make a paper mâché sculpture inspired by glass art! Watch the video introduction on the MOHAI YouTube Channel (@mohaiprograms).



What you'll need:

- Balloon
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Water
- Stir stick
- Container
- Paintbrush
- A covered or easy to clean surface

What you'll do:

1. **Find inspiration! What colors, shapes, and patterns are you inspired by in the world around you?**

Each of these glass artists that have called Washington state their home has found inspiration in our natural environment.



Ginny Ruffner: Catalogue From the Woods, 2021
(lampworked glass and mixed media)



Marvin Oliver: Salish Raven Basket, 2005
(blown and waterjet cut fused glass)



Dale Chihuly: from his "Seaform" project, 1987
(blown glass)



Dan Friday: Clam Bowl, 2022
(hot sculpted glass with glass cane)



2. Prep your mold

- Inflate and tie your balloon
- Keep it in position with a cup



3. Mix glue and water together

- Use equal amounts of each
- Stir thoroughly!



4. Cut up tissue paper

- Thinner tissue paper will be more translucent, but more difficult to handle when wet



5. Glue layers of tissue paper onto balloon

- Brush on glue under and over each piece of tissue paper
- Goal: 3-5 layers of tissue paper
- More layers will make your bowl stronger and easier to remove, but your sculpture will be less translucent
- Keep track of how many layers you've glued down by rotating the balloon in a single direction as you work from top to bottom



6. Let it dry overnight before removing your bowl from the mold

- Push the balloon in at the edges of the bowl to help release it from the sculpture
- Gently pop the balloon by cutting a tiny hole below the knot



7. Make final alterations

- Decorate with paint, sharpie, etc. or cut the rim to give it a new shape



8. Experiment further

After you've made a bowl, what other shapes do you feel inspired to make?

- Combine or modify multiple bowls to make a new shape
- Use a different object than a balloon as a mold - if doing this, make sure to wrap the object tightly in cling film before gluing down your first layer of tissue paper.

Share your sculpture on social media with us!



@mohaiseattle