

Martin Blank

Martin Blank's current abstract series uncovers his personal evolution from the basic study of form and motion to a sensual dance with textures, shapes and energy that reflect the subtle yet powerful resonance of human landscapes.

This exploration reveals with luminous simplicity a balance of grace and strength. It uncovers the organic ability of glass to create intent along side calm, reflecting the sinuous nature of warmth and light.

This body of work finds its inspiration in and is transformed by the lobby of Chicago's prestigious LaSalle building. Late last year H. Michael Kurzman commissioned Blank to sculpt a 60-foot reclining nude to define that space. Punctuated by five islands of glass, the sculpture allows for an ethereal visual tour of the feminine form, connecting each section through the flow of negative space, color and illumination. As Blank mapped out the creation of this groundbreaking work, an entire palate of abstract sculpture emerged.

Through his passion and mastery, Blank is fast emerging as one of North America's premiere figurative sculptors with a style quintessentially his own. Recently, Blank was among a group of America's most renowned glass artists invited to make presentations to create public art for the new 7 World Trade Center Building in New York City.

His vision of glass penetrates the senses of collectors worldwide. Blank's work is on display in galleries throughout the United States, and featured in international exhibitions including the Millennium Museum in Beijing, China, the Shanghai Museum of Fine Art and the American Embassy in Slovakia. In 2001 he created the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation "Access to Learning Award" for recipients in Finland, Argentina and Guatemala. In July of 2003, Honolulu Academy of Art acquired a Martin Blank sculpture for their permanent collection.

Blank's work finds its genesis in energy. He creates through intuition, from the hum of motion that allows space to flow, turn, and carry the eye around the piece. Whether the gentle curves of an abstract piece or the kinetic motion of his signature figures, the energy brought to life through their materials and creation radiates.

Martin Blank is honored to have his first exhibit at the Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner Washington. "Phases of Matter" represents ten years of artistic exploration, growth and triumph. The show runs October 11, 2003 to January 4, 2004.

Blank participated in the "Artist in Residence" program sponsored by the Museum of Glass in Tacoma Washington in August of 2003. He and his team spent a dynamic week exploring new ideas, and pushing the art of glass sculpting to new heights. He has admired the grace and flow of human form since childhood, digging into clay at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts at age 13. After earning a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1984, under the tutelage of Bruce Chow, Blank traveled West to create with Dale Chihuly. There, he quickly earned a place as an integral part of that team.

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