

Jeffrey Stenbom

ARTIST STATEMENT

I grew up in the Midwest and attended college in Minnesota and Wisconsin where I studied sculpture. I decided to take a break from college, and joined the U.S. Army as a cavalry scout one week after 9/11. After serving in the United States Army and being deployed to Iraq, I faced new challenges dealing with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and was not sure what to do with my life.

I was fortunate to get back into art and start learning the medium of glass. My interest in sculpture stems from my experiences as a soldier. I have a new appreciation for life and how I look at it. Being wounded and dealing with the pains of combat (both mentally and physically) takes a toll on a person. These experiences have led me to search for passionate and creative means of exploring my emotions, political beliefs, personal views of the world around me and psychological distress. I feel art is not meant to fix problems, but to make others aware that they exist. This awareness may lead to change or at the very least comfort and understanding through conversation.

Creating art is an escape for me. It is my outlet from within, from the confines of my own mind. The experiences I had in the military and particularly in Iraq, shaped who I have become as a man and as a person. I do not always know how to interpret my thoughts and memories of these experiences in words, so my art becomes my medium.

Art has changed my life by giving me focus and helping me begin to heal from those life changing experiences. Learning how powerful art is and the impact it can have on a person's life has been the one major reason I am where I am today, driving me to learn more and to educate others about art.

Education/Training

- 2015 M.F.A., Studio Art, Newcomb Art Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2012 B.F.A., Studio Art – Glass/Sculpture, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls
- 2012 B.S., Art Education, K-12, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls

Professional Experience

- 2017 Artist in Residence, Grand Marais Art Colony, Minnesota
- 2017 Residency, Bullseye Glass Company, Portland, Oregon
- 2016 Artist in Residence, The Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass, New York
- 2015 Artist in Residence, University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- 2015 *Nature as a Muse*, Pilchuck Glass School Kiln-Glass Residency, Stanwood, Washington

Selected Exhibitions

- 2017 *Mutual Intelligibility*, Bullseye Projects, Portland, Oregon
- 2017 *Ways of Remembering*, Coachella Valley Art Center, Indio, California
- 2017 *Window to a Veterans Sole*, The Highground, The Learning Center Gallery, Neillsville, Wisconsin
- 2017 *Journeys Onward*, Hygienic Art, New London, Connecticut
- 2017 *Impact*, Artistry, Greenberg Gallery, Bloomington Center for the Arts, Minnesota
- 2017 *Emerge/Evolve 2016*, Bullseye Projects, Portland, Oregon; Bullseye Resource Center Bay Area, Emeryville, California; Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, Washington
- 2016 *Of Eden: A Visual Dialogue of War*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, Louisiana; WHIV Community Center, New Orleans, Louisiana; International House Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2016 *Home: There and Back*, Flanagan Art Gallery, Community College of Rhode Island, Lincoln, Rhode Island
- 2016 *GATHERING: Contemporary Glass from the Heartland*, Atrium Gallery, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
- 2016 *Thank You*, Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, Neenah, Wisconsin
- 2016 *Support and Defend*, Art League of Rhode Island VET's Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2016 *Appreciation*, Gallery One, The Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, Wisconsin
- 2016 *Niche Awards Exhibition*, Washington DC Convention Center, Washington, DC (and 2015)
- 2015 *Stanislav Libenský Award 2015*, Prague Gallery of Czech Glass, Prague, Czech Republic

Selected Collections

Corning Museum of Glass, The Studio, Corning, New York
 Neuroscience Department, Tulane University, Permanent Collection, New Orleans, Louisiana
 Permanent Collection, University of Wisconsin - River Falls

Awards, Honors, & Grants

- 2017 Artist Initiative Visual Arts Grant, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, Minnesota
- 2017 Saxe Award Nominee, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington
- 2017 Summer Course Pilchuck Scholarship, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington
- 2016 Emerge 2016 Academic Silver Award, Bullseye Projects, Portland, Oregon
- 2016 Niche Awards Finalist, Niche Magazine (and 2015)
- 2015 Finalist, Stanislav Libenský Award, Czech Republic