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Dylan Martinez

American, b. 1985

Dylan Martinez is a contemporary glass artist known for his hyperrealistic sculptural illusions. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Glass from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and has trained with master craftsmen both in the U.S. and abroad. His work is exhibited internationally and held in prestigious public and private collections, including the Imagine Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida; Kelime Müzesi in Ankara, Turkey; and the private collection of Karen and Robert Duncan in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Martinez challenges human perception through his innovative manipulation of glass, light, and space. His renowned water bag sculptures deceive the eye, appearing as fluid-filled plastic bags, while his latest series explores pop art through vibrant, sculpted glass water balloons and Pac-Man-inspired ghosts. His work has been featured in publications such as Colossal, Elle Decoration, American Craft Magazine, and Interior Design Magazine.

Dylan designs and handcrafts each piece in his Bingen, Washington, studio, continuously pushing the boundaries of traditional glassmaking to create strikingly immersive experiences.

Artist Statement

I am a sculptor exploring the tension between reality and illusion through meticulously crafted glass sculptures. By mimicking fragile, ephemeral objects—such as water balloons and plastic bags filled with water—my work challenges the viewer's perception of materiality. Glass, a medium that is both hard and solid yet inherently delicate, serves as a paradox, amplifying the contrast between what appears temporary and what is, in fact, permanent.

Through subtle distortions and hyperrealistic detail, my sculptures evoke visceral reactions, prompting viewers to question their own assumptions about weight, texture, and fragility. The interplay between the familiar and the unexpected creates a space for contemplation—inviting curiosity while simultaneously disrupting expectations. By capturing objects often associated with childhood and fleeting moments, my work taps into a sense of nostalgia, blurring the line between memory and material reality. In doing so, it offers an open-ended dialogue on perception, impermanence, and the ever-shifting boundaries between what we believe to be real and what is merely an illusion.

Resume

Born 1985 in Hudson, WI – USA
Lives and works in Bingen, WA – USA

Education

2017 Masters of Fine Arts – Ball State University, Muncie, IN

2008 Bachelors of Science – University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI

Residencies

2019 Murano, Italy

Selected Exhibitions

2025 Glass Reimagined , Solo Exhibition, Square One Gallery, St. Louis, MO

2025 Glass Coast Weekend , Habatat Gallery, Sarasota, FL

2024 Personal Structures, Beyond Boundaries , European Cultural Centre, Palazzo Mora, Venice, Italy

2024 The Blue Edit , Square One Gallery, St. Louis, MO

2024 Intersect Palm Springs, Winterowd Fine Art, Palm Springs, CA

2023 Affordable Art Fair , De Medicis Galerie, Hampstead, London

2023 Wild Grass , Bluerider Art, Teipei/Shanghi

2023 Intersect Palm Springs , Winterowd Fine Art, Palm Springs, CA

2022 Affordable Art Fair , Modus Gallery, Battersea London

2022 Art Market Hamptons , Kasper Contemporary, Hamptons, NY

2021 Scope Art Show, Modus Gallery, Miami, FL

2021 OP Art/ Glass , Imagine Museum, St. Petersburg, FL

2020 48th Annual International Glass Invitational , Habatat Gallery, Detroit, MI

2020 In Light Of..., Galerie TON, Rucphen, The Netherlands

2020 London Art Fair , Art Blue Studio, London, UK

2019 Context , Winterowd Find Art, Miami, FL

2019 Milan Design Week 2019, Spinzi Design, Milan, Italy

2019 Hsinchu Art Fair , Bluerider Art, Taipei, Taiwan

2019 Affordable Art Fair , Bluerider Art, Hong Kong, China

2019 Urban Show, Next Street Gallery, Paris, France

2019 Dylan Martinez, New Works , Method and Concept Gallery, Naples, FL
Solo Exhibition

2018 Scope , Modus Gallery, Miami, FL

2018 SOFA, Lyons Wier Gallery, Chicago, IL

2018 A Persistence of Vision , Echt Gallery, Chicago, IL
Solo Exhibition

2018 Competition -35, Castello, Sforzesco, Milano, Italy

2017 Art Maimi , Lyons Weir Gallery, Miami, FL

2017 Stanislav Libensk ý Award , Prauge, Czech Republic

2017 Aesthetica Art Prize, York, United Kingdom

2017 A journey to The Edge of Perception , Atrium Gallery, Muncie, IN
solo exhibition

Awards

2024 Northwest Regional Emmy, Arts/Entertainment – Short Form Content, “The Deceptive Glass Sculptures of Dylan Martinez”, Eric Slade – Producer, Stephani Gordon – Photographer, Michael Bendixen – Editor

2021 Best in Show, OP ART/Glass, Imagine Museum, St Petersburg, FL

2018 Enrico Bersellini (Innovation)Award, Milano Vetro -35, Milan, Italy

2017 Stanislav Libensk ý Award, Prague, Czech Republic

2017 Full Scholarship to Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

2017 Full Scholarship to Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2017 Shortlisted Artist, Aesthetica Art Prize, York, UK

2017 Finalist, 2017 Niche Awards

2016 First Prize, Pittsburgh Glass Center’s Art on Fire, Pittsburgh, PA

2016 First Prize, Glass Art Society International Student Exhibition, Corning, NY

2016 Marylin K. Glick Center for Glass Scholarship, Muncie, IN

2015 Ladd Minshall Scholarship, Muncie, IN

2014 Best in Show, Awarded by Yvonne Klocek, River Falls, WI

2010 Best in Glass, Duluth Art Fair, Duluth, MN

2010 2nd Prize, Arts West 31, Awarded by Alan William Nugent, Eau Claire, WI

2010 2nd Prize, Minnetonka Juried Exhibition, Minnetonka, MN

2009 Outstanding Student Award, River Falls, WI

2008 Jurors Award, Juried Student Exhibition, Awarded by Tamara Brantmeier,
River Falls, WI

Publications

2025 American Art Collector, "Artist Focus: Dylan Martinez", No. 234, April 2025, pg.27, pg. 109

2024 Personal Structures, 2024 Venice Art Biennale, European Cultural Centre, p. 116

2023 Raine Magazine, online publication
<https://rainemagazine.com/culture/dylan-martinez-blowing-the-art-world-away>
2023 Art Beat Oregon, Oregon Public Broadcasting Feature
<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/04/06/washington-glass-artist-dylanmartinez-reality-sculpture/>

2023 AATONAU! Contemporary Art Blog, March

2023 CC Magazine, Spain, August

2022 Elle Decoration , Germany, March

2022 Elle Decoration , Netherlands, pg. 18, April/May

2021 Interior Design Magazine, pg.122, August

2021 Trebuchet Magazine, Issue 9, pg. 20-27

2020 Museum Week Magazine, pg. 13

2019 The Point, Issue 18, pg. 32-47

2018 Colossal, online publication
<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2018/04/glass-sculptures-by-dylan-martinez/>

2017 American Craft Magazine, Vol. 77, No. 5, pg. 12-13

2017 Future Now: 100 Contemporary Artists From The Aesthetica Art Prize, pg. 70- 71

2017 Aesthetica Magazine, Issue 76, pg. 116-17