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## Wesley Neal Rasko

Canadian, b. 1980

### Artist Statement

*I fully believe a certain "luck factor" exists when working with glass; sometimes a piece turns out and others crack or break. Glass can be solid/liquid, can be formed using heat or through cold working processes. It is colorful, full of life, can be transparent or matte, and is the ultimate sculpting material. I embrace this uncertain nature of glass by transforming it into expressions of emotions and nature through swirling colors and awe-inspiring forms.*

*The final hand-ground, polished pieces embody the contrasting characteristics of glass through their inclusion of textured and transparent sections and various colors interacting with one another. My pieces are composed of painted and laminated float glass, cast glass, optical crystal, and exotic stone.*

*I strive to create provocative glass sculptures that showcase the flexibility and fluidity of glass while also accepting and adapting to its uncertain nature. This is my destiny in life; to create works of art that I am blown away in creating and thus I can only hope the viewer will have a similar reaction when they see my finished work.*

### Artist Biography

Wesley Rasko's passion for art began at a young age. Growing up, his days were filled with various before and after school art programs, Wildflower Art Centre courses, and extracurricular art classes. Artistic expression came natural to him, and it was this ability that brought him to Alberta College of Art and Design. There, he studied sculpture for a year before returning with his father to his family's ancestral home in the Czech and Slovak Republic. Together they visited different art galleries and met two masters of glass casting. One such artist was Prague-based Bohumil Elias.

*“Arriving at Elias’ home, a vast number of overhead lights were turned on which brought to life all the colorful glass sculptures which filled the space with a magical aura. My jaw dropped, I fell to my knees and was left awe-stuck by the beauty that stood in front of me. Within a few minutes my life changed as Bohumil made me an offer which simply couldn’t be refused: to stay with him and learn as his apprentice. My father traveled back to Canada on his own, leaving me with my new master and mentor in life.”*

However upon returning to Canada, Rasko went on to study engineering in Calgary for two years. In intervals, he worked as a civil engineer, and returned to work in the Czech glass studio during his breaks. Eventually, he opened a studio of his own, north of Prague. It wasn’t until a near death experience in a triple rollover accident that Rasko made the decision that came to define his path in life. Surviving the accident strengthened Rasko’s belief that God intended for him to live on and pursue his passion for art. Today he devotes himself to creating breathtaking glass sculptures out of his home studio in the Czech Republic, and exhibits his work in art shows, galleries, and collections around the world.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

- 2017 - Plateaux Gallery London, England  
Arts Palm Beach, West Palm Beach
- 2015 - *glassweekend’15*, represented by Morgan Contemporary Glass  
Gallery, WheatonArts, Millville, NJ  
New Chelsea Art Fair, London, England  
Art Breda Breda, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Original Voices, Chicago, IL  
Affordable Art Fair Battersea, London, England  
Color Break, Bloomfield, Canada  
Affordable Art Fair Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
- 2014 - CONTEXT, Art Miami, Miami, FL  
In the Heat of the Night, Konigswinter, Germany  
PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Edinburgh Art Fair, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Affordable Art  
Fair Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany  
SOFA Chicago, Chicago, IL

Cambridge City Art Fair, Cambridge, England

*(e)merge art fair*, Washington, D.C.

Art Osaka, Osaka, Japan

SoHo Art Gallery, Osaka, Japan

*SEEART Fair*, Tunbridge Wells, England

Ningbo

Museum of Art, Ningbo, China

*Select Art Fair*, New York, NY

Toronto Art Expo, Toronto, Canada

New Chelsea Art Fair, London, England

Affordable Art Fair New York, New York, NY

OENO Gallery, Bloomfield, Canada

Affordable Art Fair Battersea, London, England

Sheridan Russell Gallery, London, England

Artist Project, Toronto, Canada

Salon Zelezny Brod, Czech Republic

Affordable Art Fair Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

Habatat Galleries, West Palm Beach, FL

2013 - PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Affordable Art Fair Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

CUTLOG, Paris, France

Affordable Art Fair Battersea, London, England

Galeria Bruno Massa, Paris, France

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, Canada

*Festival of Art Glass*, Karlovy Vary,

Czech Republic

Affordable Art Fair New York, New York, NY

Amarynth Gallery, Toronto, Canada

Art Shanghai, Shanghai, China

Toronto Art Expo, Toronto, Canada

Affordable Art Fair Brussels, Brussels, Germany

2012 - PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Affordable Art Fair Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Zelezny Brod Glass Exhibition, Zelezny Brod, Czech Republic

ARTi, Den Haag, Netherlands

Levenat Art Gallery, Shanghai, China

Festival of Art Glass, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic

2011 - Etienne Gallery, Oisterwijk, Netherlands

Festival of Art Glass, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, Canada

Affordable Art Fair Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

2010 - Affordable Art Fair Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Festival of Art Glass, Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic

Affordable Art Fair Paris, Paris, France

Zelezny Brod Glass Exhibition, Zelezny Brod, Czech Republic

Monaco Art Show, Monte Carlo, Monaco

Affordable Art Fair Brussels, Brussels, Belgium

Moscow International Art Salon, Moscow, Russia

Ronen Art Vision, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Galerii Slovenskej Vytvarnej Unie Bratislava, Slovak Republic

2009 - Montreal Art Expo, Montreal, Canada

Jean Claude Chapelotte Galerie, Luxembourg

Internationale Glaskunstbeurs Leerdam, Leerdam, Netherlands

Toronto Art Expo, Toronto, Canada

Galerie MY Jablonec nad Nisou, Czech Republic

2008

Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, Canada

Plateaux Gallery, London, England

ARTETIK, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Galerie Na Rynku, Zelezny Brod, Czech Republic

Sandra Ainsley Gallery, Toronto, Canada

**PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Katsuhisa Suzuki Tokyo, Japan

Fort Wayne Museum of Art, United States

Ernsting Foundation, Wiesbaden, Germany

Muskegon Museum of Art, Muskegon, MI

Museums Vledder Vledder, Netherlands

Addi Ryckaert Schoten, Belgium

Gangtai Museum of Shanghai, Shanghai, China