

Crista Van Slyck Matteson

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Matteson's multi-media art speaks of her love for wild spaces and deep connection to the Pacific Northwest. An accomplished sculptor, she allows her finely-honed intuition to guide spontaneous sculpting of natural world observations. Matteson's work also utilizes technical mold-making skills to create exact replicas of found botanical forms. She combines these skills to create cast glass and mixed media sculptures.

After receiving a BFA in Textiles from the California College of Art in San Francisco, she began her varied art career in Costume Design. Since then, her pursuit of fine art education has been relentless. Having won several merit scholarships, Matteson studied glass and metal working at the Pratt Fine Art Center, and figure sculpting in the Sculpture Atelier at Gage Academy, both in Seattle. In 2018 and 2019, she studied at Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, Washington. In 2022/23 Matteson received the Molyneaux Award from Pratt to study Flameworking and Printmaking and have independent access to their studios.

Matteson exhibits her work in museums, art galleries and public art installations across the US. Matteson's unique sculptures have been recognized by a Collector's Choice Award at Habatat Gallery's International Glass Exhibit and Juror's Choice Awards at Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, the Schack Art Center, and at Pratt Fine Art Center's annual auction. Additionally, her work was selected for the exhibition of notable glass work at the 2019 Pilchuck annual auction.

Flow Magazine's Spring 2023 issue features an article about Matteson's Bainbridge Art Museum's Spotlight installation, "Mini Habitat Series #1". Glass Art Magazine published a feature article about Matteson in the March 2021 issue. In 2020/21 she was included in Flow Magazine's article of International Women in Glass and recognized on Glass Art Society's Spotlight page.

Matteson will be teaching at Pilchuck Glass School in June of 2024. She has also worked as an assistant instructor at The Corning Museum of Glass in New York and Pratt Fine Art Center in Seattle.

Matteson is currently working on an installation for the *Surge* Exhibition at the Northwest Museum of Art in La Conner, WA. *Surge*, is an exhibition about how climate change is affecting the Skagit Valley. The exhibit opens this October. She is represented by the Museum of Glass in Washington and Duncan McClellan Gallery in Florida. Matteson works in her solar powered, home studio, in Seattle.

Artist Statement

I spent a good deal of my childhood racing on horseback through fields and woods, backpacking, and skiing the Cascade Mountains. Exploring the wild spaces around me brought me peace. I learned at an early age to love and respect the natural world.

My sculptures live in a magical, narrative space between memories and imagination. A space that gives equal importance to the real and the imagined stories of the natural world. By creating stylized glass trophies, I hope to honor the PNW. I am attempting to capture the magical essence of untamed creatures that share my

environment, to explore the idea of kinship, to shed light on what climate change and loss of habitat means for our collective future.

I have explored many different mediums but didn't fall in love with glass work until I realized it could be cast like bronze. Casting Glass is a technical, multi-step process. I begin with spontaneously sculpting and carving clay or wax, tapping into my intuitive nature. Making molds of natural objects, such as mushrooms, to be replicated in glass, feeds my need to catalogue the natural world. My hunger for a technical challenge is satisfied by the involved aspects of heating a solid glass into a liquid, and then forming, annealing, and cooling it. I enjoy engineering complex forms and pushing the limits of glass. Aesthetically, I feel the transparency of glass reflects the ethereal quality of our ecosystem and cautions the viewer to tread carefully.

Education:

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Textiles, California College of Art, San Francisco, CA

2018 & 2019 Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

2015 – 2016 Gage Academy of Art, Sculpting Atelier, Seattle, WA

1998 –2023 Bronze, Glass, Welding, Flame Working, Painting, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle, WA

Teaching Experience:

2024 Pilchuck Glass School, Instructor for a 2week Glass Casting Class, Stanwood, WA

2018/2016 Assistant Instructor: Corning Museum of Glass, NY. and Pratt Fine Art Center

Exhibits:

2023

Surge: an exhibition about Climate Change, Northwest Museum of Art, La Connor, WA

BIMA Spotlight Exhibition, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge, WA

2022

Connections 2022: Glass from Every Angle, an international exhibit, Museum of Glass, Tacoma, WA

Forces of Nature, Duncan Mc Clellan Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL

2021

You Are Earth, 6ft. x 11ft wall installation, Amazon Headquarters, Seattle, WA

Habatat 50th Anniversary Exhibition, Royal Oak, MI

2020

Kinship, a solo exhibition, Bender Gallery, Ashville, NC

Habatat Glass 48 International Invitational Glass Exhibition, Habatat Gallery, Royal Oak, MI

Women Artists Making Their Mark, O'Hanlon Art Center, Mill Valley, CA

2019

Habatat Glass 47 International Invitational Glass Exhibition, Habatat Gallery, Royal Oak, MI

Fort Wayne Museum, Winners from Glass 47 Invitational Exhibition, Fort Wayne Museum of Art

Mesa Contemporary Art Museum: Contemporary Craft Exhibit, Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ

Select Work from the Pilchuck Auction, Pilchuck Glass Gallery, Seattle, WA

Museo Annual Garden Show, Museo Gallery, Langlely, WA

2018

Mesa Contemporary Art Museum: Contemporary Crafts, Mesa Contemporary Art Museum, Mesa, AZ

By Hand, International Fine Craft Competition, Blue Line Arts, Roseville, CA

2017

For the Love of Glass invitational group show, Marietta Cobb Museum, Marietta, GA

2016

Solo exhibit, Can You Smell the Rain? Shift Gallery, Seattle, WA

The Contemporary Figure, Invitational Sculpture Exhibition, Sculpture Northwest, Bellingham, WA

2015

Solo exhibit, Finding Humor in the Dark, Shift Gallery, Seattle, WA

2014

Reaching Beyond: 60 Years of Northwest Designer Craftsmen, Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA

Awards

2022 *Molyneaux Award for Women, Pratt Fine Art Center, Seattle, WA*

2019 *Collector's Choice Award, Glass 47 Invitational, Habatat Gallery, MI*

2018 *Juror's Award, Mesa Contemporary Art Museum Annual Crafts Exhibit, AZ*

2015 *Gage Academy of Art's Atelier Merit Scholarship Award, Seattle, WA*

2014 *Juror's Grand Prize, Schack Art Center, Everett, WA*

2011 *Shirley Merit Glass Scholarship Award, Pratt Fine Art Center, Seattle, WA*

2011 *Juror's Choice Award, Pratt Fine Art Center Annual Auction*

2009 *Poncho Artist in Residence Merit Scholarship, Pratt Fine Arts Center, Seattle*

Publications:

2023/21/20 *Flow Magazine, Feature article and article: International Women in Glass*

2021 *Glass Art Magazine, Feature article about my kiln cast glass sculptures*

