

Stone and Glass™

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BIOGRAPHY

JAMES STONE

Environmental Artist

For James Stone, 56, the art of creating thought-provoking hot glass sculptures is many things. It's a testament to his heritage, it's a beauty to admire, it's dangerous, hard work – but foremost it's an opportunity to get everyone to think about the environmental choices they make.

“The oceans are my pet peeve,” Stone said. “As a culture we live life carelessly and I do believe we can change the way we live to coexist with our fellow species. I just want people to question the effect we're having on the environment.”

Through his art he urges everyone to make more informed decisions about their actions that impact the world. Every piece of trash leaves an urban footprint. Use less and recycle more, Stone says.

Stone grew up appreciating the natural habitat of the Great Swamp Refuge in New Jersey. As a young boy he witnessed a neighborhood campaign to get the area protected as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

As an adult, his return to those preserved, untainted paths renewed his focus on positively coexisting with the environment. Unfortunately, a recent scuba trip off the shores of the Cayman Islands was much different.

He found a desolation perpetuated by pollutions and contaminants. What was once a healthy ecosystem with coral and fish was barren. His trip inspired the vision for his renowned work: “Not Seen, Not Heard, But Felt.”

This sculpture depicts sea life struggling to survive among the pollution and debris poured into the waters under the thin veil of the ocean surface. Among the majestic mammals of the sea are fish trapped in nets, suffocated by oil cans and other pollutants.

“I just want people to think,” Stone said. “I don’t want to tell them what to do. I just want them to make better decisions.”

In each of his awe-inspiring, larger-than-life sculptures is a message urging people to be more responsible and take steps to preserve our Earth.

Amid the bright colors and whimsical images boldly brought to life with mixed mediums of glass and metal there is a perspective with a social consciousness. Hidden within the composition or within perspective, are elements meant to be thought-provoking.

“I want people to be drawn in by the beauty – to remember the beauty, but link to the message,” Stone said. “If I make something really attractive and they come to look at it, and then maybe they can absorb the additional message.”

Stone’s latest and most accomplished work, “Earth Echo,” masterfully depicts the state of the planet faced with global warming and can be seen as part of an exhibit at the Zimmer Children’s Museum in Los Angeles opening on May 7th.

Turning Off the Gas, Reducing Use of Resources Begins In Stone’s Studio

Changing starts right at home – or at studio – for Stone. Acknowledging that his craft of glassmaking consumes huge amounts of fuel, he’s making changes at his San Diego studio to reduce the energy impact of what he does.

“Our furnaces don’t run unnecessarily anymore,” he said. “Restarting the furnaces may damage them, but it’s less of an impact to the environment, so I’d rather have to repair the furnaces.”

He has since cut his fuel usage by almost half. He is also investigating how he can use alternative fuels for his studio and hopes to be able to use a combination of recycled vegetable oil from area restaurants, solar and thermal electric power for his studio.

“Change is within our control,” he said. “I hope people will look at my work; love the work and think about what they’re doing. I want them to walk away with a smile on their face, while challenging their intellect.”

James Stone is a master artisan who combines the elements of glass, metal and water to say what is in his heart. It’s his hope that the viewer senses the relaxing nature of the underwater world, while gaining an understanding of the urgency for its care and preservation.

For more information visit www.stoneandglass.com. Stone and Glass Studio and Gallery is located in the historic Bernardo Winery, 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte Blvd, “S” San Diego, CA 92128 or contact 858-485-7701.

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