

Nicholas Auen

Biography

Born 1982 in San Diego, CA. Lives and works in California, USA.

Nicholas Auen was born into an artistic family that encouraged his passion of music, drawing, painting, architecture, and our environmental beauty in the cosmos. Developing his skills using multiple mediums, Nicholas studied glass blowing, welding, life drawing and art history. Auen's professional art career began when he was 19 years old while studying under the artist Therman Statom. While working with Therman, he further developed his skills in glass blowing, painting, ceramics, and various metallic materials. With Therman's influence, he was able to study with many other established artists such as Martin Blank, Dale Chihuly, Jun Kaneko and Karen LaMonte amongst many others. The experiences while working with artists in their variety of mediums strengthened Auen's desire to create art that conveys messages utilizing reflective finishes and acrylic paints.

Innumerable symbolic connotations of the reflective surface impact the spatial perceptions of one's individual ego. Playing with the duality of the physical and the abstract, the reflections of the surface of Auen's artwork force the connection of environmental and the individual's perspective during the immediate. Capturing the primal forces of the abstract with his liquid series, geometric landscape series, or the various narratives of the representational envisage series, Auen pushes the emotional dialogue of self-reflection.

The abstract ambiguity of the Liquid series delves into the psyche through charged color palettes of the composition. Movement of liquid objects display the interplay and depth of negative space harnessed through the fluidity of the unrested forms. Textures, hues, and reflectivity dance amongst the viewer's unique perspective that is captured within the work. The reflective composition expands the field of vision of the surrounding environment which would otherwise be hidden. The reflection and textures allow augmentation and deformity of reality outstretching beyond the physical space it occupies to envelope the environment just like a liquid filling a glass.

The Envisage series focuses on linear movement, structural stability, and negative space to express a specific representational narrative. Each composition is an interpretation through self-realization and the previous experiences of the individual's life. One might view the work as a serene scene while another viewer could interpret the narrative from a completely different lens. The goal of the maze-like representational painting promotes the dialogue of one's unique human experiences and their personal reflections of the modern state of morality.

Education

2017	Bachelor Degree in Art History, Arizona State University
2008	Fresno State University: Creative sculpture implementing narratives
2006	Ringling College of Art and Design: Creative approaches of sculpture
2005	Pilchuck Glass School: Focus on advanced glassblowing techniques
2004	Palomar College Associates degree in Art with a focus on sculpture and welding

Solo Exhibition

2016	Scott Richards Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA. "Envisage"
2016	San Francisco Art Fair
2015	Austin Art Projects debuts Envisage series
2007-2008	Year of Glass in Pittsburgh, PA. Public exhibition, "Projection of the Self": Glass fused with imagery of the imagination

Group Exhibitions

2019	Austin Art Projects, Group show
2019	Hohmann Fine Art, Group show
2017	Austin Art Projects, Group Show
2017	Tangent Contemporary Art, Group Show "Figurative Explorations"
2016	Scott Richards Contemporary Art, San Francisco, CA
2016	San Francisco Art Fair

Public Works

2020	City of Vista "Flower of Life"
2006	Romanofski foundation site specific installation. "Envelope": Carlsbad, California
2005	Brahehus Castle, Sweden. "Ascendance": Site specific temporary installation reflected self-evaluation through mobility
2004	Public sculpture in the city of Valencia, California. "Canopy": Protecting travelers during the city's revitalization project

Catalogs and Publications

San Diego Tribune

Pittsburgh Gazette

LA Times.

Accomplishments, Prizes

2009 Guardian Glass award. Creative adaptation and application implementing glass.