

"Torchure"

Written by James Lynch

"Self inflicted Torchure". This is my new name for lampworking. Cracks, breaks, cuts and burns are all just the tip of the "Glassburg" so to speak. I've just had a day of nonstop mistakes and struggles and I am writing this from a place of frustration. I could honestly say that I feel completely defeated after a day of dropping finished pieces, slumping work and just losing all control. Glass has won the battle today, but tomorrow I will try again.

The cuts, burns and torch inflicted sunburns are reminders that I am working with a formidable enemy, that does not always want to go where I am trying to take it. "You can lead a sculpture to the kiln, but can't always make it fit."

Now I know that I have talked about "battling" and "formidable enemies" in reference to glass, and this may sound rather crude, but don't misunderstand me. I love glass with or without the cuts and burns. I am simply dramatizing things hot glass workers experience on a regular basis.

I always hear, "If you're not making mistakes then you're not learning." And this was easy to repeat before today. But if this is a true statement, then I must have just finished my bachelor's degree in eight hours because I made every mistake in the book today, and ended up with not a single piece of finished work! Not one! Yet tomorrow I will push myself again, and I'll wake up with visions of grandeur of all the beautiful things I will make. And I will get on the torch and begin my "Self Inflicted Torchure" of cuts, and burns, and sweat in the eyes.

Hot glass workers certainly are a special breed of people. Who else would go through all these pains and get up excited to do it all again the next day? It comes down to two sayings for me. First is, "If you want to play with fire, you're gonna get burned." And second, "Good things don't come easy."

I would like to personally commend and congratulate any and all hot glass



workers, from bead makers to furnace workers. You are all brave, strong, and persevering souls who put themselves through hot, hard "Torchure", purely for the sake of beauty. For this I respect all of you. Keep it up and share the love!

At the age of seventeen, James discovered lampworking and unexpectedly found love for the medium of glass in all of its many forms. In August of 1998 James relocated to Boulder, Colorado for a one-year apprenticeship at Diablo Glass Studios. In October of 2002 James relocated back to Albuquerque, New Mexico to experience the growth of his family with the birth of his son.

James' heritage of many generations of mechanical engineers is a direct reflection on his detailed symmetrical designs and defined colors. "My passion for art, music, and nature has served to expand and inspire my imagination. "Glass blowing has taught me many life lessons, enlightened my views, and has broadened my perspectives.

James, his wonderful wife Christie, and their son Jaden currently reside in Phoenix, Arizona. His marriage and also the birth of his son, drive him harder than ever to succeed in making a lasting imprint in the world of glass art.

