

Lea de Wit's Artist Statement

As a teenager, a bone tumor in my spine taught me the lesson that life is too short not to pursue that about which you are passionate. I have worked with various art forms my whole life but, when I started working with hot glass, I was transfixed.

The experience of working with a medium that can be molten in one state and breakable in another state is fascinating. The fine line between pliable and fragile creates a challenge that fuels my fervor for the medium.

When I start working with the hot glass, I gather the molten material out of a 2200° F furnace on to the end of a long stainless steel pipe. Glass color in various forms from sea salt-sized chunks to powder is melted into the searing mass. I layer color upon color to create depth and intensity while playing with varying degrees of transparency and opacity. Then blowing and sculpting the glass to build the vision in my mind involves the magical dance of selectively heating and cooling the glass to form it into a beautiful sculpture or vessel.