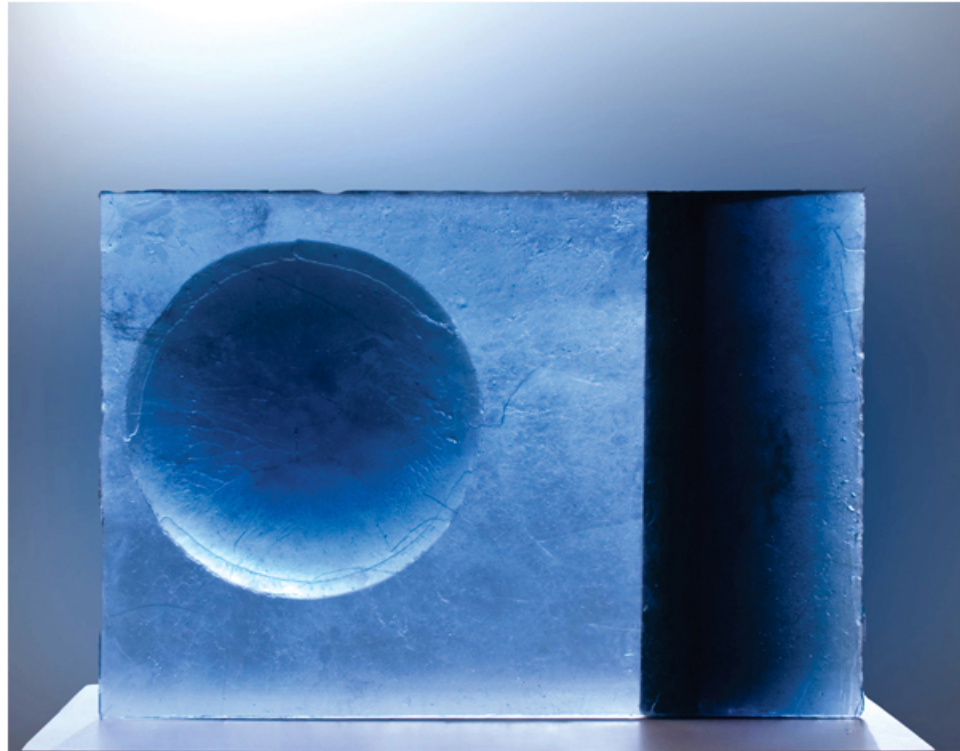


[feedback](#)[search](#)[new on site](#)[Sitemap](#)**Artist of the Month - September 2007****JB Wood**

*Chaos Beginning, 2005*  
20" x 29" x 4" cast lead crystal

**Click on the small images below to enlarge.**

JB Wood is a rare blend: working in the corporate world allowed JB to first indulge his passion for glass as a collector; "retirement" has afforded him the time to develop as an artist.

He caught the bug early, and it has grown in intensity. For more than 30 years, starting shortly after college, he traveled the world and acquired sculptural glass from the artists and galleries he discovered along the way. Over the years, JB continued to learn, study and collect, refining his passion to concentrate primarily on cast work.

Several years ago, he found himself unable to satisfy his hunger: as a collector, he wanted to keep acquiring, but found little that excited him, so he decided to participate in the art world in a new way - as a sculptor himself. Upon retirement from his *vocation*, JB dedicated himself to his *avocation* with renewed vigor, pursuing a BFA at Detroit's College of Creative Studies, where he learned to blow and cast from the likes of prominent sculptors Herb Babcock, Brent Sommerhauser, and others. Unlike most students, however, the classroom and studio instruction was merely supplementing what JB had learned directly from other artists in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.



This leads to an important distinction between JB and other "emerging" artists: while elegant visually, the works are also often technically sophisticated. Again, his experience as a collector allowed him to bypass much of the trial-and-error stage in an artist's evolution, and proceed directly to producing fully-formed, well-executed and immediately collectible works.

The result is a strong and varied body of sculpture which draws from classics, but uses a vocabulary which is entirely personal. His work is a refreshing synthesis of influences: he often balances the abstracted geometric volumes of the Czechs with the bolder, brighter palette of the Australians. (JB notes that he was blown away by the way a particular bowl by Judi Elliot – a "symphony of color", he called it – invoked possibilities beyond the darker tones of the Eastern Bloc.)

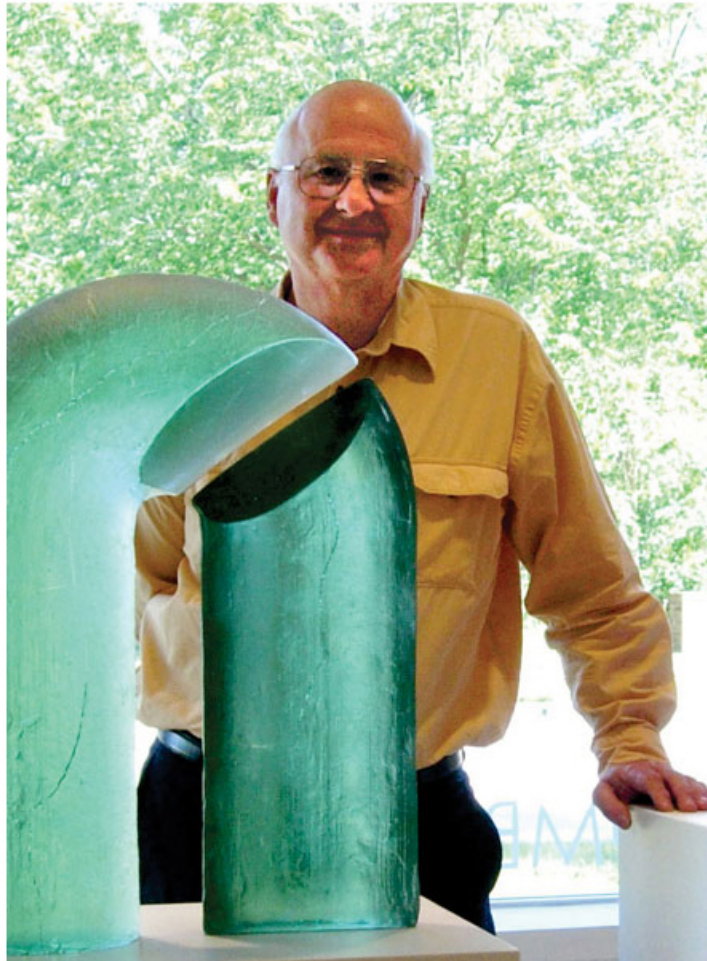


Drawing inspiration from these two very different schools, and melding in bits of the various cultures he's lived among, JB makes sculpture that sings. With the process of creating, JB finds "a universe of sculptural opportunities that block out the everyday cares of an increasingly violent, dangerous, and 24x7 world." Each new work is a celebration of the medium- "the captivating rhythms of color and form... with infinite possibilities... the color shifts from variations in thickness, in shadow effects of intersecting and angled planes, ... the subtle color variations over time from sunrise to sunset."



It is these subtle tonal variations that are so significant. In much the same way that Rothko elevated monochrome canvases to awe-inspiring masterpieces, Wood uses the varying density(ies) in his sculptures to great effect. Any change in light or viewing angle, renders the static dynamic, the solid diffuse... and the mysterious concrete.

Given JB's passion (plainly evident) for his work, he'd prefer to keep everything he makes. We, the public, are fortunate to have his loving wife as an ally - she's informed him it's either share his gift(s) with the world... or add on to the house. Happily, he has chosen to share.



Artist JB Wood, with *Green Touch*, 2004  
19" x 15½" x 6" cast lead crystal

[Artist's Statement](#)

[Biographical Information](#)

-----  
We are grateful to [Prism Contemporary Glass](#), Chicago, for providing the images and descriptive material on this page.

The Artist of the Month for October has not yet been selected. Material will be provided by [Heller Gallery](#), New York.

last updated on 16 August 2007.

[top](#)  
[feedback](#)  
[search](#)  
[new on site](#)

---

**Sitemap:**

**Home** | [AACG Home](#)

**AACG Information** | [About AACG](#) | [Why join AACG?](#) | [Local Groups](#) | [President's Page](#)

**AACG Activities** | [Awards](#) | [Glass Weekend](#) | [AACG Grants](#) | [Info for Grant Applicants](#) | [Tributes](#) | [Collectors' Travel Network](#)

**Events** | [Calendar](#) | [Recurring Events](#) | [Glass Weekend](#)

**General Information** | [Museums](#) | [Newcomers](#) | [Glass News](#)

**Seeing Glass** | [Artist of the Month](#) | [Collections](#)

