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Preston Singletary: Echoes, Fire, And Shadows



Synopsis

For nearly two decades, Preston Singletary has straddled two unique cultures, melding his Tlingit ancestry with the dynamism of the Studio Glass Movement. In the process, he has created an extraordinarily distinctive and powerful body of work that depicts cultural and historical images in richly detailed, beautifully hued glass. Singletary has translated the visual vocabulary of patterns, narratives, and systems of Native woodcarving and painted art into glass, a material historically associated with Native peoples through an extensive network of trading routes. Singletary entered the world of glassblowing as an assistant, mastering the techniques of the European tradition as he worked alongside Seattle-area artists such as Benjamin Moore and Dante Marioni. He also had opportunities to learn the secrets of the Venetian glass masters while working with Italian legends Lino Tagliapietra and Pino Signoretto. The Northwest Native icons, supernatural beings, transformative themes, animal spirits, shamanism, and basketry design of Singletary's Tlingit heritage are manifested in his work, creating a unique whole that resonates on many levels and reveals a new artistic direction. This mid-career retrospective of his work includes contributions by Melissa G. Post, Steven Clay Brown, and Walter Porter, as well as a DVD of Singletary working in his studio. Preston Singletary's works are in museum collections around the world, including the National Museum of the American Indian; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Seattle Art Museum; Corning Museum of Glass; Mint Museum of Art; the Heard Museum; and the Handelsbanken (Stockholm, Sweden).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Preston Singletary has made an incredible journey with his art. I'm partial to Northwest Native design, motifs and lore. Preston has successfully merged these into his glass. The book contains information and photographs of this journey, including a DVD in the back cover. Seeing his artwork in person is a "must" so find the opportunity to go see where he shows his work and buy the book.

This book is a catalog for an exhibit at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, WA. If you can get there before the show closes, go. Seriously. In any case, the book is a fine representation of and commentary on the work and the artist. Preston Singletary's work in glass stands equally firm on the foundations of his understanding of aesthetic traditions from north America's north Pacific coast and his own beautiful imagination and skills as a contemporary artist. Dreaming and designing from traditional subtractive and geometric media (carving cedar and basketry/textiles) into luminous glass is a tall order, but Singletary accomplishes the task repeatedly and with grace. Traditional works from this region are often only fully revealed in context of the oyster light of a northwest day or by firelight in a cedar home, but these glass works bring their own light, and the feeling is true to spirit. The few collaborations are standouts, showing that Mr. Singletary has the beyond-controlling-ego confidence of a great artist. Hope the artist someday publishes his beautiful ambient audio "soundtrack" to the exhibit.

This is not your average coffee table book. It's an interesting read about the glass artist, Preston Singletary. Also has a great DVD in the back.

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