

Paul John van den Bijgaart



Paul van den Bijgaart was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1987. His youth was fueled with a pursuit for adrenaline through downhill ski racing, mountain biking, and skateboarding. His life in motion eventually led him to glassblowing through a weekend workshop at Red Deer College in 2007. He continued to study at Haliburton School of the Arts, Sheridan College, Pilchuck Glass School, and The Corning Museum of Glass, and in 2015 a leap of faith led him to Beijing China.

For the next 4 years he traveled China and was exposed to a variety of ancient objects used for everyday life as well as ritual and ceremony. He found a love for Chinese painting, in the spontaneity and flow that captured motion within a static image.

Throughout his travels he became intrigued by Chinese philosophy, specifically the ideas of the Dao. The roots of which inspired the symbol of Yin Yang. His philosophical studies have led him to a concept of Wu Wei or Effortless Action. Which he is now adapting into his studio practice and means of artistic expression.

Throughout his travels a seed of a new man was planted, and with the skills gained from his youthful love of motion and western studio practice alongside a new found philosophy and understanding of the world. He's attempting to find a balance and harmony in his studio practice to create meaningful objects that people can relate to in their rituals and ceremonies of daily life.

