

REFRACT: THE SEATTLE GLASS EXPERIENCE



GLASS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



In 1962, the first glass program in America brought the idea of studio glass to fruition – marking a fundamental shift in glassblowing in America. In 1971, Dale Chihuly co-founded Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, WA, which has become a world-renowned glass education center – right in our own backyard.

Since then, interest and experimentation with glass art has flourished, leading us to where we are today.

“LANDSCAPE OF GLASS” STUDY

The Glass Art Society, an international organization, conducted a study about the current state of glass art and found the Pacific Northwest is the leading regional hub for glass art in the US. It also showed:

700+

glass artists
live in Washington

100+

glass art studios
are in the region

74%

of the general public reported being interested in glass art

People want to engage with, create conversations and learn about glass art in the greater Seattle area.

GLASS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



The Pacific Northwest has strong resources that encourage artists who work in glass to thrive at every stage of their career.

Opportunities

- Education: University of Washington, Pilchuck Glass School, Pratt Fine Arts Center, youth programs, etc.
 - Exhibitions: Galleries and Museums
 - Jobs: Glassybaby, Glass Eye Studio, Chihuly Inc., Seattle Glassblowing Studio, Pratt Fine Arts Center
-

REFRACT: OCTOBER 17-20, 2019



Chihuly Garden and Glass and Visit Seattle are partnering to present the region's first-ever glass festival to showcase artists and arts organizations that make up our vibrant arts community.

With more than 70 events over four full days, the festival is designed to introduce people to the medium and help them learn what the community has to offer through local studio tours, live demonstrations, exhibitions and museums, evening parties, lectures, and more.

More than 50 artists and organizations are coming together, including some of the world's most renowned glass artists and organizations, right alongside up-and-comers who are already making a splash on the scene.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

70+

Events Throughout the Puget Sound

50+

Participating Artists &
Organizations

20+

Artist
Open Studios

15

New
Exhibitions

8

Hands-on
Opportunities

8

Signature
Events

15+

Live
Demos

1

Open-air Shopping Experience in Belltown



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

ArtsFund found that the arts have a significant impact on King County:

- 79% of people believe the arts benefit their personal wellbeing
- 60% cite the arts as a key factor in their decision to locate in the area
- Arts participants are more than twice as likely to volunteer in their communities, independent of education, age, gender, or ethnicity.

Continuing to support arts and arts organizations through events like Refract will contribute to the vitality, vibrancy and growth of Seattle.



www.refractseattle.org