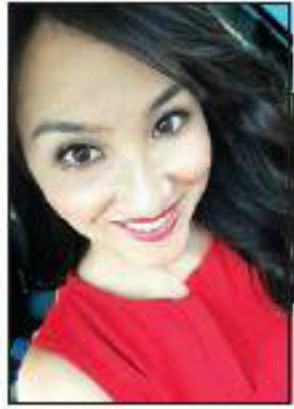


'Carved by Sand:' VAC glass exhibit opens



**Katie Young
YAMANAKA**
Big Island Vibe

Large cylindrical glass vases with sandblasted complex designs featuring a monstera leaf, a humpback whale and the image of the Hawaiian god Ku all appear to glow from the inside in the latest "Carved by Sand" exhibition by Kalapana glass artist Daniel Moe.

His new collection — in lovely orange, red, yellow and blue tones — features intricate works of blown, sculpted and carved glass. Pieces explore patterns, symbols and images that highlight the environment, spirit and culture of life on Hawaii Island.

The Volcano Art Center is presenting Moe's latest work through Feb. 7.

"I didn't show anybody any of this work until the night of the show," explains Moe, who has shown his work at the VAC for 16 years. "I wanted to reveal what I was doing and listen and get honest feedback. It seemed like everybody who has come to the show has been inspired — I received so many questions about the technique and the imagery, and ideas of how to improve the next pieces in the series."

VAC gallery manager Emily C. Weiss agrees.

"Daniel Moe's new work has been well-received by his collectors and patrons," she says. "This collection is being described as 'weighty, chiseled and bold' although a deliberate 'lightness shines from within each piece.' Much like the human form, each vessel appears on the outside, rigid and dense, yet inside a layered, intricate light shines sharing a deeper story with those who wish to see it."

Moe thinks the new direction he's taking with his art is the birth of a whole new world of possibilities, likely with more shows in the series within



"Kohala Moe," blown-glass vessel by Daniel Moe.

Courtesy photo

the year.

"When I first started this series, I was being very literal and influenced by Hawaiian artists and Hawaiian art," Moe says. "It was very inspiring and educational for me but it didn't feel like my authentic expression. So, what

this is ... it feels like me reinventing myself as an artist. There's a whole realm of infinite possibilities."

Some of his other series include the Kilauea collection that pays homage to

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Photos: Maria Arroyo Photography

Daniel Moe shapes a hot glass bubble with a folded wet newspaper pad.

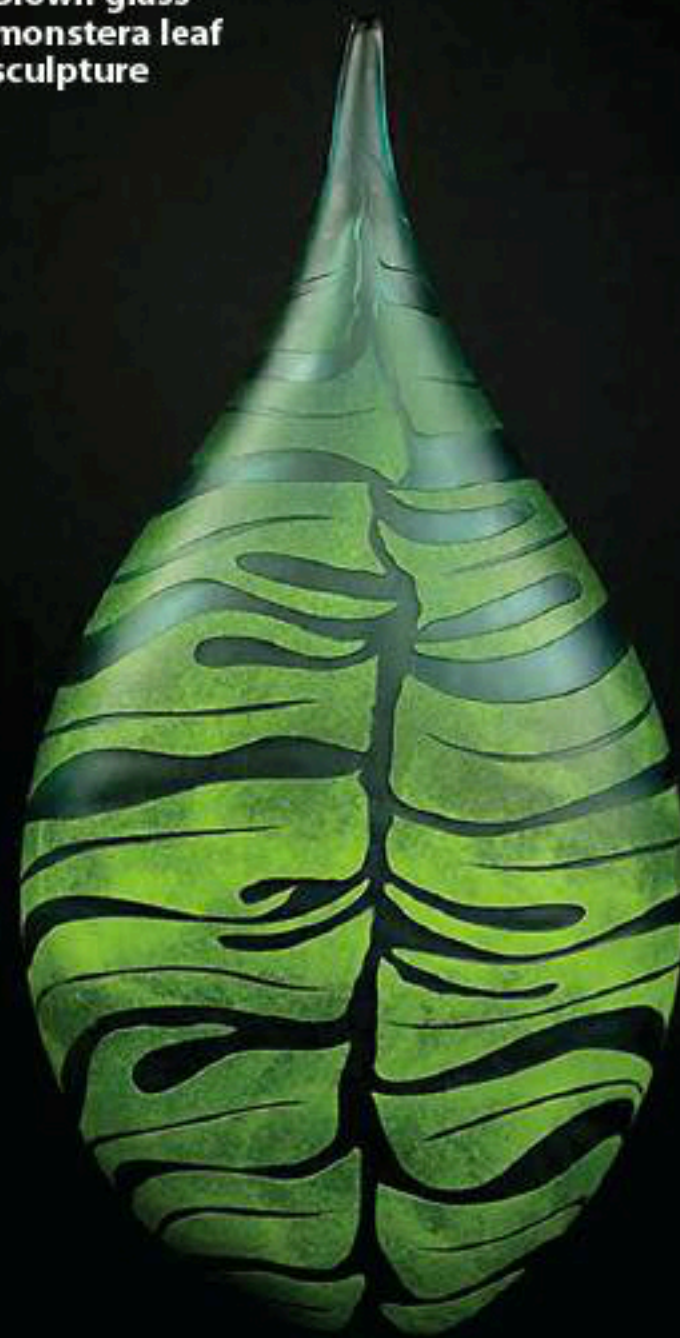
The Monstera Calabash



Puu Oo Fern



Blown glass monstera leaf sculpture



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the fire and form of Kilauea in black hues with bright orange "lava" dripping from the neck, as well as his Kalapana Kai collection that features a beautiful cresting blue wave.

Moe says he is really inspired by nature, and it is the theme of all his work, really.

"The colors of each particular piece were designed and chosen ahead of time, before the glass was even gathered for the piece to be blown, and with careful consideration of the final carved design that I have in mind," Moe says. "After the vessel has come down to room temperature, I can begin to create the final detailed drawing design. This process can take anywhere

from four to 10 hours."

Next, Moe needs to translate the imagery onto the glass form — a step that can take longer than the original design process.

"Sometimes, this can be the most challenging part of the entire process, depending on the amount of detail and distortion that needs to be adjusted," Moe says.

"Once the design has been finalized and applied to the piece, the sand carving begins."

He explains that layers of glass are removed by blasting the surface with high-pressure air carrying abrasive sand, revealing the color of the glass beneath the surface.

"It's a lovely and intimate

but courageous and borderline foolish process," Moe says with a laugh.

Born in St. Paul, Minn., Moe received his bachelor's degree in hot glass from the University of Wisconsin. He also studied at Pilchuk Glass School, the world's most comprehensive center for glass blowing education.

Moe makes glass during three or four, six weeklong studio sessions each year, working with an apprentice as well as several assistants.

"Glass is not only a material, it is matter, living its own life, a powerful medium of communication," Moe says. "It is both beautiful and treacherous. It lends itself to metaphor because it can

imitate some things such as water, magma, stone and suggest other things like air and light. It is poetry. It can be liquid, viscous, transparent, opaque, shiny, solid, adaptable, flowing and versatile. This makes the perfect material to express the dynamic, raw and liberating energy revealed in the 'aina of Hawaii."

"Volcano Art Center is excited to share Daniel Moe's new collection of glass with the public through the 'Carved by Sand' exhibition," Weiss says.

"We have long admired Daniel's ability to translate what naturally occurs before our eyes here at Kilauea through his medium. Seeing him branch out of a very

successful, well-developed body of work is courageous. VAC is honored to be the first to share this new, exceptional work with our members and visitors."

Everything in the show is for sale, and pieces range in price from \$1,500 to \$6,800.

"Carved by Sand" is on display 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at the Volcano Art Center Gallery inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The exhibition is free, but park entrance fees apply.

For more information, visit www.volcanoartcenter.org. You also can view more of Moe's work at moehotglass.com.

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