

Percy Echols II

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Education

2015 Bachelors of Fine Art, Studio Glass, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Certificates

2018 Certificate of Completion for Installation and Bending Essentials, Swagelok Pittsburgh | Tri-State Area

Other Education

2017 Sally Prash, Flameworking with Sally, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2016 Ethan Stern, Blown and Cut, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2015 James Payne, Steel Fabrication & Armature Construction, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency, Saugatuck, MI

2014 Pat Collentine, Interactive Light, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

Professional Experience

2024 Temporary Part-Time Glassblower and Instructor, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2023-current Board Member, Glass Art Society

2023 Planning Committee, Neon Symposium, Pilchuck Glass School

2021 Curated the LIT: Light in Transmission, A Neon and Plasma Light Exhibition, Hodge Gallery at Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, Pa

2020-2021 Collaborator with GEEX (Glass Education Exchange), Intro to Plasma Series

2020 Technical Consultant for Neon and Plasma, Glass Art Society, Boda, Sweden

Technical Consultant | Neon & Plasma, Half-Moon Bay Art Glass, Half Moon Bay, CA

2019-Current Committee Member, Plasma Art Alliance www.plasmaartalliance.com

- 2020- current Committee President

2019 Temporary Part-Time Glassblower and Instructor, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2018 Production Assistant, Matthew McCormack and Jenn Figg, Pittsburgh, PA

2017-Current Owner/Founder, Taming Lightning LLC, www.taminglightining.net

- 2024 - Partnership with Alta Robbins for valves for neon industry
- 2023 - Partnership with Global Rare Gases for Rare Gase Sales
- 2023-current eCommerce for neon/plasma resources, gases, and consultation.
- 2017 - Taming Lightning Podcast

mail@percyechols.com

2018-current Independent Contractor and Emerging Plasma/Neon Tech, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2017 Curated the 2017 Gather: An ISU Alumni Glass Exhibition, Ramp-Arts, Bloomington, IL

2016 Studio Technician Apprentice, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Teaching Experience

2024 Instructor, "Lightning in ANY Bottle", UrbanGlass, Brooklyn, NY

Co-Teacher, "Radiant Horizons" with Mark Ditzler, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Technical Assistant, "Pull It, Twist It, Bop It!" with Jacob Willcox and Dani Kaes, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2023 Co-Teacher, "A Glowing Potential" with Harriet Schwarzrock, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, WA

Co-teacher, "Stealing Fire, Taming Lightning" with Zach Layhew, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Co-teacher, "Under Vacuum" with Angie McHale, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Instructor, Taming Lightning, A Glowing Potential, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH

2022 Co-Teacher, "Plasma Sculpture using Glass Solde"r with Ed Kirshner, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Technical Assistant," Borderline" with James Akers, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2019 Technical Assistant, "Blown glass with Plasma", Jaime Guerrero and Ed Kirshner, The Glass Factory Boda, Sweden

Technical Assistant, "Blow and glow", Jaime Guerrero and Ed Kirshner, Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2018 Technical Assistant," Light up your world with Plasma", Wayne Strattman and Mundy Hepburn,

Pittsburgh Glass Center, Pittsburgh, PA

2015 Temporary Studio Manager, Katherine Gray, Ox-bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI

Teaching Assistant and Studio Technician Assistant, Jerry Catania, Ox-bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI

Teaching Assistant and Wood Lab Technician, Randy Reid, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

2014 Teaching Assistant and Studio Technician Assistant, Beginner Glass, Jerry Catania, Ox-Bow School of art,

Saugatuck, MI

2013 -2014Teaching Assistant and Studio Technician, John Miller, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Selected Exhibitions

- 2024** Your Arre Here, Fragile: Handle with Care, Jeannette, PA
- 2023** Weeks Gallery, Reiterations in Glass, Jamestown, NY curated by Erika Diamond
Bridgeville Public Library, Working in Glass, Bridgeville, PA
IDEA lab at Alfred University , Black Glass Artist Show, Alfred, NY
- 2022** Hodge Gallery at Pittsburgh Glass Center, Aspire 2: A Retrospective of New Talent, Pittsburgh, Pa
- 2021** Hodge Gallery at Pittsburgh Glass Center, Gathered Local, Pittsburgh, Pa
Hodge Gallery at Pittsburgh Glass Center, LIT: Light in Transmission, A Neon and Plasma Light Exhibition, Pittsburgh, Pa
- 2020** Krasl Art Center, Artists as Influencers: Pathways in Glass, St. Joseph, Mi
- 2018** Fondazione Berengo, Vetro Illuminato, Murano, Italy
BoxHeart Gallery, LA Art Show 2018: Littletopia, Los Angeles, Ca
- 2017** BoxHeart Gallery, Aqua Art Miami 2017, Miami, Fl
Hodge Gallery at Pittsburgh Glass Center, embodiment: a Juried Glass Wearables Exhibit, Pittsburgh, Pa
Ramp-Arts, 2017 Gather: An ISU Alumni Glass Exhibition, Bloomington, IL (self-curated)
- 2015** Jan Brandt Gallery, (Re)vision: What is Post-Black Art?, Bloomington, IL
ECHT Gallery, 11th Annual Emerging Artists Show, Chicago, IL
Transpace Gallery, Katabasis: In Mortal Imperfection, Solo BFA Exhibition, Normal, IL
Jan Brandt Gallery, On Point: Annual BFA group Exhibition, Bloomington, IL
Transpace Gallery, 2015 Illinois State University Student Glass Exhibition, Normal, IL
- 2014** Ken Saunders Gallery, 10th Annual Emerging Artists Show, Chicago, IL
University Gallery, 2014 Student Annual Exhibition, Normal, IL. Juried exhibition
- 2013** Atmosphere Gallery at Neusole Glassworks, Summer Juried Exhibition, Cincinnati, OH
Alumni Center, Sisters and Friends Afrocentric Art Show Carnival, Normal, IL.

Residencies

- 2024** Corning Museum Glass, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Residency, Corning, NY
- 2023** Alfred University, Black Glass Artist Series, Alfred, NY
- 2022** Toledo Museum of Art, 50th Guest Artist Pavilion Project, Toledo, OH
- 2019** Pittsburgh Glass Center, Advancing Black Art in Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2018** Pittsburgh Glass Center, Ron Desmett Memorial Award for Imagination in Glass, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2017** Brew House Association, Distillery 8 Residency, Pittsburgh, PA

Lecturer

- 2023** “Building accessibility for plasma from workshops to the community” co-lecture with Amy Lemaire, Neon Symposium , Pilchuck, Standwood, WA
- “Plasma Primer with Percy Echols II” , Neon Symposium, Pilchuck, Standwood, WA
- “Plasma Illumination Collaborative Demonstration”, 21st International Flameworking Conference, Salem Community College, Salem, NJ
- 2021** “Laure Wagman Lecture: Percy Echols II”, Temple University Tyler School of Art and Architecture, March 1, 2021
- <https://youtu.be/ODxMCSylzuo>
- 2020** “Getting the word out!”, 2020 Virtual GAS Conference, Glass Art Society, June 16, 20,
- <https://youtu.be/G8UCM4SOF9c>

Grants & Awards

- 2024** 2024-2025 Pittsburgh Cultural Treasures Initiative (PCTI) Capacity Building 2 Program (CB 2)
- 2019** The Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments, Advancing Black Art in Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2015** The Edwin Niemi Metals Scholarship, Illinois State University
- Ox-Bow Merit Grant, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist Residency
- 2014** Irving S. Tick Scholarship, Illinois State University
- The Elizabeth Stein Award, Illinois State University
- Student Annual ISU Glass Program Award
- Dale Metternich Memorial Scholarship, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist Residency
- Friends of the Arts Grant (Group), ISU Glass Club, Illinois State University

2013 Ox-Bow Merit Grant, Ox-Bow School of Art and Artist Residency
Partner Scholarship, Pilchuck Glass School
Sisters and Friends Afrocentric Art Scholarship
Friends of the Arts Grant, Illinois State University

Publications

"Meet Percy Echols | Artist, Alchemist, Educator", Shoutout LA. 13 Dec. 2021

<https://shoutoutla.com/meet-percy-echols-artist-alchemist-educator/>

Tyler Dague. "Artist curates first neon, plasma exhibition at Pittsburgh Glass Center", Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. 3 Feb. 2021

<https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/art-architecture/2021/02/03/Artist-curates-first-neon-plasma-exhibition-at-Pittsburgh-Glass-Center/stories/202101280195>

Jamie Marie Rose. "Light in Hand: Art of Plasma and Neon" GASnews Spring 2019, Issue 1, Vol. 30. 7 May. 2019. .pp. 8-10. Digital. <https://issuu.com/glassartsociety/docs/news-spring19/8>

Primozic, Laura. "Art Alumnus shares how gifts made to Glass Scholarship impact student opportunity" Illinois State University Stories. N.p., 27 Feb.

2019. <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2019/02/art-alumnus-shares-how-gifts-made-to-glass-scholarship-impact-students/>

Hane, Erik. "Plasma Fantastica: Glass artist Percy Echols II eagerly enters a dawning era." American Craft Magazine, The Tool Issue, Issue 6, Vol. 78, December/January 2019, pp. 32-33. Print

<https://www.craftcouncil.org/magazine/article/plasma-fantastica>

Thomas, M. "Percy Echols will explore plasma at Glass Center." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. 31 July. 2018.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/art-architecture/2018/07/31/Percy-Echols-II-plasma-neon-Pittsburgh-Glass-Center-Garfield/stories/201808010004>

Ryder, Olivia. "AWARD: Percy Echols II wins the first Ron Desmett Memorial Award for Imagination in Glass." Urban Glass Quarterly. 12 July. 2018.

<https://urbanglass.org/glass/detail/ron-desmett-memorial-award-for-imagination-in-glass-from-the-pittsburgh-glass-center-is-awarded-to-percy-echols-ii>

Echols, Percy, II, and Misty Long. 2017 Gather: An ISU Alumni Glass Exhibition. Pittsburgh, PA: Percy Echols Publications, 2017.

<https://www.lulu.com/en/ca/shop/misty-long-and-percy-echols-ii/2017-gather-an-isu-alumni-glass-exhibition-catalog/paperback/product-1g8r6y48.html?page=1&pageSize=4>

Bursett, Kevin. "Friends of the Arts-supported Student to Hold Glass Sale March 6." Illinois State University Stories. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/tag/friends-of-the-arts/page/4/>