Glass Art Guide
to Seattle and the Puget Sound Region

Visit Seattle

The Seattle Glass Experience
Learn more at refractseattle.org

REFRACT

Magnolia 2018
Brown and sculpted glass by Deborah Moore
Whether you’re already a glass aficionado or just curious, this guide will help you experience Seattle’s vibrant arts scene and reveal why the Pacific Northwest is a hub for glass art innovation.
### The Glass Community

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A GLASS COMMUNITY

Spirit of Creativity

With its rich history and thriving arts community, the Pacific Northwest region draws in glass artists, curators, and admirers alike. Seattle is rich with glass art, from glittering public sculptures and renowned museums to independent galleries and bustling glassblowing studios. This guide will help you discover what makes the Emerald City and Puget Sound region an epicenter of glass art in America.

Though the roots of glass blowing trace back to the Roman Empire, glass art design began just over 50 years ago in the United States. In 1962, University of Wisconsin ceramics professor Harvey Littleton launched the nation’s first glass program and ushered in a new art form, the studio glass movement. Among Littleton’s first wave of students was Washington-born Dale Chihuly, who later became an industry giant and went on to establish the Pilchuck Glass School just north of Seattle in Stanwood, Washington.

Today, Pilchuck Glass School is a beacon for the international glass community, attracting aspiring artists who hope to learn from some of the greatest glass designers and makers alike. But in the Pacific Northwest, this founding institution is only the tip of the iceberg; there are 38 glass art educational institutions in the region, more than 100 glass art studios, and 700-plus glass artists in Washington State—a greater total number of studios and artists than in the Venetian island of Murano, where glass artistry dates back to 1291.

Epicenter of Glass Art

“Pilchuck started the Seattle glass enthusiasm. It all goes back to Dale [Chihuly] and his passion for glass and teaching others about glass.”

Brandi Clark
Executive Director of the Glass Art Society
ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY by the Glass Art Society, the Pacific Northwest is the leading regional hub for glass art in the United States. The region is often characterized by its exceptional blown glass, but in Seattle you’ll also find artists working with a variety of methods, including flameworking, kiln cast glass, fusing, neon, jewelry making, and pipe making. This spirit of creative experimentation and innovative methodologies is built on a backbone of mentorship and community. “The glass community is so fascinating because it’s made up of people who range from twenty years old to eighty years old, and you often see them working side by side, teaching each other,” says Brandi Clark, the executive director of the Glass Art Society, an international nonprofit organization. “Younger artists have so much more experience in ways of new technologies, but the older artists have decades of experience and skill they’ve developed over time.”

With such a vast array of artists working and exchanging expertise in the area, Seattle offers plenty for art lovers to see and do. Here you can tour one of the nation’s preeminent glass art schools or be dazzled by the vibrant colors at a top neon school. You can see collections of renowned artists’ works at museums, admire public exhibits, or head to studios and hot shops to discuss singular pieces with knowledgeable curators and the artists themselves. If you’re looking to take something home, shop from the plethora of galleries displaying one-of-a-kind pieces, or check out retail stores featuring candle holders, ornaments, and sea globes that delight both locals and visitors. You can even try the art form yourself at studios and schools that let you create your own vase, bowl, paperweight, figurine, float, and more.

As numerous creatives flock to this region to share their deep passion for glass art, you’ll get a front row seat to some of the industry’s hottest trends and cutting-edge techniques. Read on for itinerary inspiration and can’t-miss installations—no matter how you decide to explore and engage, you’ll gain a deeper appreciation for Seattle’s place at the center of this unique art movement.
PUBLIC ART / ARCHITECTURE

Inspiring Installations

In Seattle, you don’t have to travel far to find jaw-dropping glass displays. From select installations to public art to architectural feats, the next glass masterpiece is just around the corner.

You can take in the works of local glass artists before even entering the city with the collections at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (17801 International Blvd; portseattle.org/sea-tac). From Concourse D, look up to see Pilchuck professor Dick Weiss’s Cow on Its Side, a stained-glass mosaic in the high bay windows composed of glass rondelles in vivid reds, yellows, and oranges. Each glass circle is swirled with an accent color and inlaid on a double-rolled base of blue, gray, and white glass, which undulates in waves to emulate a cow’s udders.

Continue walking in Concourse D to see Weiss’s stained-glass window, For AW, an abstract piece that combines 14 sections of beveled glass in a shimmering blue-and-green vase shape. Or glimpse the largest single-image glass painting in the country in Concourse A, where Cappy Thompson’s I Was Dreaming of Spirit Animals dances along the windows.

“In Seattle, you don’t have to travel far to find jaw-dropping glass displays. The next glass masterpiece is just around the corner.”
Also in Concourse A, Linda Beaumont’s *Traveling Light*, a more than 350-foot long glass wall, includes cross sections of old-growth trees and images of loggers in a semi-reflective amber hue, while in Concourse B, hand-etched glass wings are affixed to ladders that tilt upwards in Norie Sato’s *Wings of Transition*. And you shouldn’t miss two new 2019 additions, Cable Griffith’s glass paneled *Cascadia* in Concourse C and metz&chew’s stunning nod to the Pacific Northwest environment, *Cathedral*, in the North Satellite.

Before even entering the city, you can take in the works of local glass artists at the Seattle–Tacoma International Airport.

Once you’re in Seattle, you’ll find a multitude of art by world-renowned Washington-born artist Dale Chihuly on display in local institutions. Start your tour of Chihuly creations with Capitol Hill’s *Accendo* in Seattle University’s (901 12th Ave; seattleu.edu) Pigott Building. This 20-foot towering sculpture shoots towards the sky like a flame, with 732 pieces of glass spiraling upwards in energetic streaks of red and yellow.

At Benaroya Hall (200 University St; seattlesymphony.org/benaroyahall) in downtown, Chihuly’s three-ton *Crystal Cascade* chandeliers dangle from both ends of the (free, publicly accessible) entry gallery. These fixtures, lit externally, comprise countless organic glass shapes that brighten the room with their luminescent white and gold hues.

Nearby, the Sheraton Grand Seattle’s (1400 Sixth Ave; sheratongrandseattle.com) lobby is also energized by Chihuly glass art. Here you can appreciate intricately formed white speckled flowers before heading to the Seattle Aquarium (1483 Alaskan Way; seattleaquarium.org) on Pier 59 to see Chihuly sketches of his celebrated *Seaforms*, translucent bowl-shaped glass forms wrapped in lines of color, exhibited next to the tanks and tidepools of sea life that inspired them.
Art in Public

More glass enlivens the city as public art. An outdoor extension of the Seattle Art Museum, the free Olympic Sculpture Park (2901 Western Ave; seattleartmuseum.org/visit/olympic-sculpture-park) offers masterpieces in all mediums. Amid the collection, admire Teresita Fernández’s glass bridge, Cloud Cover, for saturated color images of the city sky encased in glass panes. An easy walk northeast, Seattle Center’s (305 Harrison St; seattlecenter.com) campus houses Paul Horiuchi’s Seattle Mural, a 60-foot Venetian glass mosaic mural inspired by the beauty and tones of the Pacific Northwest. Or venture north to gaze at the Fremont Bridge (fremont.com), where a neon Rapunzel, crafted by Seattle-based Rodman Miller, stands in the window of the control tower, letting her electric yellow hair down the side of the turret.

In the US Bank Centre (1420 Fifth Ave; usbankcentre.com) mezzanine downtown, admire contemporary glass from the Pilchuck Glass Collection, an array of pieces crafted by the Pilchuck Glass School’s established artists. More than 30 glass artworks throughout the building include patterned bowls, colorful vases and vessels, delicate glass pillows, abstract sculptures, and more, with techniques ranging from etching to neon to electroformed and electroplated sandblasted glass—a process that involves running a current through a conductive solution to coat glass in layers of copper.

Stroll through the building’s first and second floor to see highlights like David Kerner’s Map Measure, a mixed media collection of neon-rimmed circles and lines that hang from the ceiling and jut out at all angles, a fragmented anatomy of a compass. There’s also Artifact Series #14, Offering by William Morris, whose 15-foot tall glass tubes curve like ribs and are tinged with red; and Norie Sato’s The Duel, twin sculptures etched with ornate patterns and lit from above, framing the building’s escalators in iridescent turquoise.

Farther afield, immerse yourself in the medium by walking across Tacoma’s Bridge of Glass, one of Dale Chihuly’s most iconic works, a footbridge that links the Museum of Glass (1801 Dock St, Tacoma; museumofglass.org) to downtown Tacoma. This partially enclosed 500-foot pedestrian bridge surrounds visitors with more than 2,000 pieces hung from the walls and ceiling. Just outside the museum, Martin Blank’s monumental Fluent Steps spans the entire length of the 210-foot long main plaza.
GLASS TO GREAT EFFECT

From all angles you can **admire** the glass that **entlivens** our city.

PUBLIC ART / ARCHITECTURE

**Architectural Wonders**

If your interests lean toward design, you’ll delight in wandering the city, where some of Seattle’s most famous buildings use glass to great effect. A relative newcomer to the scene, Amazon completed its **Seattle Spheres** (2101 Seventh Ave; seattlespheres.com) in 2018, adding architectural innovation in the form of three glass globes to the retail giant’s South Lake Union campus. Part office space and part greenhouse, the three orbs are made of a webbed steel skeleton covered in 2,643 panes of glass, selected specifically to regulate sunlight and heat for the plants housed within.

Snap a photo with the otherworldly structure before ducking inside to watch the sun slant through the glass panes onto the more than 40,000 plant species that call this great edifice home. **Note:** public tours are offered on the first and third Saturdays of each month; you’ll want to make your free reservations in advance, as public access is limited (seattlespheres.com/the-spheres-weekend-public-visits).

Stand and admire the innovative glass Seattle Spheres or watch the sun slant through the glass panes in the Seattle Public Library.
In the bustling downtown core, Seattle Central Library’s (1000 Fourth Ave; spl.org) silhouette stands out among the rows of rectangular skyscrapers and has racked up architecture awards since its completion in 2004. From street level, the iconic building hunches in a stack of geometric shapes made of crisscrossing steel and glass. Inside, you can see the surrounding skyline and waterfront beyond through the diamond-shaped glass lattice walls.

Undoubtedly the most iconic structure in Seattle, the **Space Needle** (400 Broad St; spaceneedle.com) was renovated in 2018, adding an open-air observation deck at the tippy top, with floor-to-ceiling glass panels that angle out for unobstructed 360-degree vistas of the city.

**Feeling brave? You can sit on Skyrisers, glass benches affixed to barriers on the observation deck that lean out over the city.**

The new Needle boasts 10 different types of glass, totaling 176 tons and 20,000 feet of glass surface. Feeling brave? You can sit on Skyrisers, glass benches affixed to barriers on the observation deck that lean out over the city and leave feet dangling. You can also take the winding, circular stairway (made of even more glass) down to The Loupe, or the lower observation level, where the world’s first rotating glass floor affords dramatic views of the Needle’s base and the elevators and counterweights moving below.

“The Space Needle is the most iconic structure in Seattle and features floor-to-ceiling glass panels that angle out for a 360-degree view of the city below.”

The Space Needle LLC
If you’re looking to dive deeper into the world of glass art, the following resources are a great place to visit while in Seattle and the Puget Sound region.
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND MUSEUM OF ART

Located a short walk from the Bainbridge Island ferry in a LEED Gold building, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art focuses on the art and craft of the region, from recognized masters to emerging artists, including many specializing in glass. Along with featured rotating exhibitions, the museum also offers classes, tours, films, lectures, concerts, special events, a bistro and a well curated museum store.

550 Winslow Way E
Bainbridge Island
206.842.4451 | biartmuseum.org

BELLEVUE ARTS MUSEUM

Bellevue Arts Museum encourages the exploration of art, craft, and design through national and international exhibitions, frequently including extensive presentations of artists working in glass.

510 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue
425.519.0770 | bellevuearts.org

MUSEUM OF GLASS

In downtown Tacoma’s Museum District, the Museum of Glass (MOG) offers live glassblowing demonstrations, dynamic exhibitions, and make-your-own glass experiences. This contemporary art museum is dedicated to glass and glassmaking in the West Coast’s largest and most active museum glass studio. MOG hosts impactful and engaging artist residencies, organizes and hosts nationally traveling exhibitions, creates unique programs for visitors, and is building a growing permanent collection chronicling the development of modern and contemporary glass.

1801 Dock St
Tacoma
253.284.4750 | museumofglass.org

TACOMA ART MUSEUM

Tacoma Art Museum (TAM) connects people through art via thoughtful exhibitions, exciting events, and enriching programs. The museum’s collection of more than 4,500 works emphasizes the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region. The museum’s new Benaroya Wing (opened in 2019) highlights the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Collection including a stunning collection of studio glass art. With more than 900 glass art holdings, TAM is one of the top five public collections of studio glass nationwide.

1701 Pacific Ave
Tacoma
253.272.4258 | tacomaartmuseum.org

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

Seattle Art Museum (SAM) has been the center for world class visual arts in the Pacific Northwest since 1933. The collections, special exhibitions, and programs feature art from around the world and build bridges between cultures and centuries. SAM’s diverse collection includes fine examples of experimental glass art, including works representing the innovative Pilchuck Glass School, which brought an appreciation for contemporary glass art to the region. Representative works from SAM’s collection are often on view outside the Arnold Board Room.

1300 First Ave
Seattle
206.654.3100 | seattleartmuseum.org

FEATURED LISTINGS

RETAIL

LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

CLASSES

Museum Tips:

Many museums offer free admission: some are free all the time, while others offer complimentary admission on select days, typically on First or Third Thursdays of the month. Be sure to check their websites for special offers!
Galleries & Studios

ART BY FIRE
Art by Fire is a gallery and glass school that teaches glassblowing and lampworking. A great way to take in some beautiful pieces while spending time in the city of Issaquah.

195 Front St N
Issaquah
425.996.8867 | artbyfire.com

BLOWING SANDS GLASS STUDIO
This diverse space offers Northwest artists’ craftwork and the chance to see these skilled makers at work in the hot shop. Visitors also have the opportunity to purchase pieces or take lessons at the gallery.

5805 11th Ave NW
Seattle
206.783.5314 | blowingsands.com

GALLERY MACK
For more than 30 years, Gallery Mack has presented unique contemporary works in glass, wood, painting, and bronze by regional artists. Located just north of Pike Place Market.

2100 Western Ave
Seattle
206.448.1616 | gallerymack.com

AVALON GLASSWORKS
This working hot shop in the West Seattle neighborhood encourages visitors to talk to artists, see the process, and buy gifts of handmade art.

2911 SW Avalon Way
Seattle
206.937.6369 | avalonglassworks.com

EDGE OF GLASS
Located in the Fremont neighborhood, Edge of Glass specializes in blown glass art, showcasing resident artist James M. Curtis III and select works from other esteemed local glass artists. Curtis works out of a hot shop located in the back of the gallery.

513 N 36th St, Suite II
Seattle
206.632.7807 | edgeofglass.com

GLASSHOUSE-STUDIO
Founded in 1971 at the beginning of the Northwest glass movement, Glasshouse-Studio is the oldest glassblowing studio in the area. Here you can discover the works of talented artists and watch live glassblowing demonstrations on most days. The adjacent gallery offers unique glass art for purchase.

311 Occidental Ave S
Seattle
206.682.9939 | glasshouse-studio.com

LINO TAGLIAPIETRA GLASS STUDIO
The world-renowned artist’s Belltown studio, which operated as a shipping warehouse for Lino’s artworks since 1994, underwent a renovation in 2017 and is now a gallery housing the Maestro’s incredible creations. The studio, the epicenter of Lino Tagliapietra’s artworks in the Pacific Northwest, is free and open to the public.

2006 Second Ave
Seattle
206.420.4867 | linotagliapietra.com

PILCHUCK GLASS SCHOOL - GALLERY
Pilchuck’s rotating gallery space in Seattle’s historic Pioneer Square neighborhood showcases artists from around the world who are working in glass at the Pilchuck Glass School. You’ll find work by students, instructors, visiting artists, and more.

2100 Western Ave
Seattle
206.621.8422 | pilchuck.com

SCHACK ART CENTER
This free admission visual art center features galleries showcasing artwork from local and international artists and a state-of-the-art hot shop that offers live demonstrations. Classes for all ages and skill levels are also available for a wide variety of glass applications.

2227 Fifth Ave
Seattle
206.448.2181 | seattleglassblowing.com

FEATURED LISTINGS

Many private artist studios are only open to the public for special events. A great time to see them is during Refract: The Seattle Glass Experience, held in October.
STONINGTON GALLERY

Stonington Gallery is a rich cultural introduction, and proof of the vibrant, living indigenous cultures of Seattle and the Northwest Coast region. A special emphasis is placed on offering works in glass by contemporary indigenous artists, such as Raven Skyriver, Preston Singletary, Dan Friday, and Marvin Oliver among others.

125 S Jackson St
Seattle
206.405.4040 | stoningtongallery.com

TACOMA GLASSBLOWING STUDIO

Tacoma Glassblowing Studio offers visitors a close-up view of how hand-blown glass is made and gives guests the opportunity to try it for themselves in hands-on classes where beginners are welcome. The studio also offers a store and gallery.

114 S 23rd St
Tacoma
253.948.9699 | tacomaglassblowing.com

TRAVER GALLERY

Located in downtown Seattle, Traver Gallery is one of the country’s premier exhibition spaces for contemporary studio glass, along with painting, sculpture, and installation art. For more than 40 years, they have represented outstanding artists at all stages of their careers.

110 Union St, #200
Seattle
206.587.6501 | travergallery.com

VETRI GALLERY

Just south of Pike Place Market, Vetri showcases the work of extraordinary artists and designers. With roots in the Northwest studio glass movement, the gallery’s focus is on the innovative contemporary work being made by artists in glass. You will also find ceramic artists, sculptural jewelry by independent designers, and exceptional objects in all media for sale.

1404 First Ave
Seattle
206.667.9608 | vetriglass.com
**Schools & Instruction**

**Area 253 Glassblowing**
This public glassblowing studio offers classes for all skill levels, one-on-one experiences, private lessons, special events, and community hot shop rentals.

2514 Holgate St
Tacoma
253.779.0101
area253-glassblowing.com

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**Glass Art Society**
Headquartered in Seattle, this international organization serves to advance the education of glass artists and to promote the appreciation and development of the glass arts. To learn more and see how you can be involved, please visit their website.
glassart.org

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**Pilchuck Glass School**
Pilchuck Glass School is an international center for glass art education nestled in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains on 54 wooded acres, about 50 miles north of Seattle. Combining a deep focus on glass, access to a variety of resources, a picturesque Pacific Northwest setting, and an ever-expanding international community of artists, Pilchuck has become the most comprehensive educational center in the world for glass artists. Please note: public access is limited and the campus is not ordinarily open for visitation. Public tours are offered each spring.

Stanwood
Washington
360.445.3111 | pilchuck.com

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**Pratt Fine Arts Center**
From glassblowing and casting to flameworking and glass fusing, and from intro workshops to Master Artist classes, Pratt Fine Arts Center offers the most extensive and enticing array of glass classes in Seattle. Whether you are a complete beginner or an established artist, experienced instructors teach you to master the skills to create and express yourself in this versatile medium.

1902 S Main St
Seattle
206.328.2200 | pratt.org

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**Seattle Mosaic Arts**
This studio features workshops from international visiting artists, mosaic technique classes, lectures, art shows, and group events. Committed to the development of mosaic art in the Pacific Northwest, Seattle Mosaic Arts provides resources and materials for the sharing of all things mosaic.

1325 N 16th St
Seattle
206.402.6642 | seattlemosaicarts.com

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**Seattle Stained Glass**
These experts on stained glass offer classes on a wide variety of techniques, from beginner to advanced levels, in one-day workshops or multi-week sessions.

2510 N 45th St
Seattle
206.633.2040
seattlestainedglass.com

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**Western Neon School of Art**
Western Neon has been a studio, gallery, custom sign business, and Seattle mainstay powered by creativity since its inception in 1985. And since 2017, it has also been a school. The Western Neon School of Art offers one-day workshops and multi-week classes, ensuring that the curious from all walks of life have the opportunity to learn the art and skills necessary to design, create, and exhibit light-based media in a collaborative, inclusive environment.

2902 Fourth Ave S
Seattle
206.682.7738 | wnsaseattle.org

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**Pilchuck Glass School:**
Pilchuck means ’red river’ in the Native American language of the region. The school is named after the tree farm where the campus is situated. The tree farm was named for the nearby river, which has substantial iron deposits that cause the banks to turn red.

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**Photo:** Pilchuck Glass School
In addition to the museum gift shops and specialized galleries and studios listed in previous pages, the following locations present excellent offerings of handcrafted Northwest glass art available for purchase.

**Retail Shops**

This region is a hotbed of creativity and innovation. Made in Washington stores offer handcrafted art from artisans of the Pacific Northwest, including a fine selection of affordable glass.

**Made in Washington Stores**

Established in Seattle in 2001, glassybaby and their beautifully colored signature hand-blown candle holders have become a well-loved Northwest icon. You can shop at the Madrona hot shop and retail store, or one of the other locations including downtown Seattle, University Village, and Sea-Tac Airport, take a class, or participate in special pop-up events.

**GlassyBaby**

Established in 1978 in Seattle’s famed Pike Place Market, Glass Eye Studio is one of the oldest and largest privately owned hot shops in the country and has served as a training ground for some of the most established glass artists of the Pacific Northwest. You can find their work in multiple retail locations listed on their website and in this guide. Watch their website for occasional studio sales events.

**Glass Eye Studio**

The Market is home to more than 200 local artists and craftspeople selling a wide variety of handmade offerings including, you guessed it, glass!

**Pike Place Market**

Flagship stores:
Pike Place Market (1530 Post Alley) and Westlake Center (400 Pine St), Seattle

Other regional locations include Sea-Tac Airport.

206.467.0788 | 206.623.9753
madeinwashington.com

Photo: David Newman
Regional Glass Art Map

GREATER SEATTLE AREA
Avalon Glassworks
Bellevue Arts Museum
Blowing Sands Glass Studio
Chihuly Garden and Glass
Edge of Glass
Gallery Mack
Glass Eye Studio
Glasshouse-Studio
glassybaby (Madrona & Sea-Tac Airport)
Lino Tagliapietra Glass Studio
Made in Washington (Flagship Stores)
Pike Place Market
Pilchuck Glass School - Gallery
Pratt Fine Arts Center
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Glassblowing Studio
Seattle Mosaic Arts
Seattle Stained Glass
Stonington Gallery
Traver Gallery
Vetri Gallery
Western Neon School of Art

PUGET SOUND REGION
Area 253 Glassblowing (Tacoma)
Art by Fire (Issaquah)
Bainbridge Island Museum of Art
Museum of Glass (Tacoma)
Museum of Northwest Art (La Conner)
Pilchuck Glass School (Stanwood)
Schack Art Center (Everett)
Tacoma Art Museum
Tacoma Glassblowing Studio
This Glass Art Guide was created by Visit Seattle. Thank you to all our partners.

Visit Seattle has served as the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for Seattle and King County for more than 50 years. A 501(c)6 organization, Visit Seattle enhances the economic prosperity of the region through global destination branding along with competitive programs and campaigns in leisure travel marketing, convention sales, cultural tourism and overseas tourism development.

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Photo: Pilchuck Glass School