



## **WILFRIED GROOTENS**

Residence - Germany

Glass artist Wilfred Grootens was born in Uedem, a small town in the German countryside near the Dutch border. At the age of fifteen, he began training as a glass and porcelain painter with Hein Derix in the nearby town of Kevelaer, where he apprenticed for four years. The Derix Company specializes in the restoration of antique painted stained glass windows, the creation of large-scale painted glass architectural installations and mosaic projects.

In 1973, Grootens left Derix Company to begin an eight year adventurous journey of discovery. During this time span, he received a Technical Diploma in design, worked as a freelance artist for several studios, traveled throughout Asia and South America and focused on a self-taught pursuit of music.

In 1981, Grootens moved to Munich and over the next seven years he participated in recording music with the German bands Embryo and Dissidenten, groups known for their avant-garde approach to a style of music coined the 'world beat movement'. He had the wonderful opportunity to record music projects at the Karnataka College of Percussion in Bangalor, India.

It was during this period of the 1980s, that he also re-visited his glass work and began the first experiments that would lead to his career as a glass artist. In 1988, he received a Master Craftsman's Diploma in Munich and in 1989 he moved to Kleve and opened his own studio.

Grootens' current glass work uses the optical float technique. He paints on layers of glass and assembles them in stacks, laminating them together to create cube forms. The cubes are cut and polished to perfection. One sculpture in the series, "Where the Shark Bubbles Blow", is made from 35 layers of painted glass. For this piece, Grootens painted a circle shape on the surface of each thin layer of clear glass. Made of thousands of very fine brush strokes of varying tones, the painted circle creates a wonderful aqua blue. The circles on each layer recede or expand in size gradually and, when seen together, form a miraculous three dimensional globe which seems to be suspended in the cube. The painted globe is reflected on the planes of the cube, duplicating itself partially and, in one view, disappears entirely - in a dizzying display of optical illusion and geometry as art.

**Awards:**

- 2011 - Prize Beautiful Nature, Competition 2011, TGK Glass Company, Schloß Holte-Stukenbrock, Germany
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Arts and Crafts State Award, North Rhine-Westphalia, Kreismuseum Zons, Zons, Germany
- 2010 - Prize Glasveredlerpreis zur Glasstec, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2003, 2009 - Immenhäuser Glass Prize, Immenhäuser Glass Museum, Germany
- 2002/2003 - Nominated for the Pebem Glaskunst Prize, Tubbergen, Netherlands
- 1991 - Prize, glass competition at the Galerie Ewers at Gross St. Martin, Cologne, Germany
- 1973 - Winner in the competition of the Chamber of Commerce, Düsseldorf, Germany
  - Prize Regional winner of the Chamber of Crafts, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

**Exhibitions:** Including but not limited to:

- 2012 - "GKV im Landtag", Düsseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany
  - "200 Years of Glass", Glass Museum Gernsheim, Gernsheim, Germany
- 2011 - National Exhibition, for the State Prize, Zons County Museum, Zons, Germany
  - Castle Race, Dormagen Zons, Germany
  - Inaugural exhibition of the Rhine Park "House in the Park", Emmerich, Germany
  - 15 Gallery & Beeldentuin, Lochem, Netherlands
  - "The Fascination of Glass", Lorch Monastery, Lorch, Germany
- 2010 - New Glass Review 31, The Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY
  - "Wilfried Grootens Glass", Rhinebach Glass Museum, Rhinebach, Germany
  - Immenhausen Glass Museum, Immenhausen, Germany
  - Ajeto Art Glass Museum, Nový Bor, Czech Republic
- 2009 - Museum of Cultural History Kevelaer, National Award for the arts and crafts of North Rhine-Westphalia, Kevelaer, Germany
  - Saint Joseph Gallery, Leeuwarden, Netherlands
- 2008 - Glasstec, Dusseldorf Exhibition Center, Dusseldorf, Germany
  - "Summer Exhibition 2008", Gallery De Beeldentuin de Stegge, Netherlands
- 2007 - KWR, Hummelo, Netherlands
  - Glass in het Golzius, Venlo, Netherlands
- 2006 - Glass Museum Coburg Glass Prize, Coburg, Germany
- 2005 - Gallery "Niagara", Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2004 - "Traffic Light", Berlet and Partners, Velbert, Germany
- 2003 - Glass Museum Immerhausen, Immerhausen, Germany
- 2002 - "Kind of Eden", Krefeld, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany
- 2001 - Weru Glass Art Prize, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1999 - Museum of Kulturgeschichte, Kevelaer, Germany
- 1988 - HIS "Culture in Sonsbeck", Sonsbeck, Germany
- 1997 - Gustav Luebke Museum, Hamm, Germany



**Exhibitions:** Continued:

- 1995 - "7 Salon Artist", Koekoek Cleves House, Cleves, Germany
- 1993 - Competition of "Manu Factum", Dusseldorf, Germany
- 1991 - Gallery Evers at Great St. Martin, Cologne, Germany
- 1990 - "Behind Glass", Kleve, Germany
- 1989 - German Bank, Cleves, Germany
- 1988 - GlassTec, Dusseldorf, Germany