

PENLAND GALLERY

JUNICHIRO BABA

Tokyo, Japan

GLASS | Sculpture

Penland Affiliation | Penland Resident Artist 1998-2000, Penland Instructor 2006

Artist Information | Studio artist; education: MFA Rochester Institute of Technology; teaching: Joshibi University of Art and Design, Tokyo Glass Art Institute, Meisei University (Japan), Appalachian State University (NC); exhibitions: Heller Gallery (NYC), SOFA Chicago (IL), Blue Spiral 1 (NC), Museum of American Glass (NJ), First Publishing Co. (NYC), Rochester Institute of Technology (NY).

Artist Statement | *As it is true of many artists, my creative activities are strongly influenced by the environment in which I grew up. There, all existing space is geometrically divided by man-made structures. These creations powerfully separate nature from society, which forces nature to the perimeter of our experience. Nature is denied a focal place in our contemporary lives. Nonetheless, the evidence of nature in such artificial environs prevails. The manifestation of this fragile but powerful spirit of nature that moves through my environment remains the strongest among all of the memories.*

With “The Memory of Shadows”, a recent series, my fascination is in the balance between man-made structures and nature, as I remembered it. I do this by utilizing light as seen through cast and stacked glass. As light passes straight through solid glass, it implies the trace of the pure quality of the spirit of nature as it moves through these physically massive structures.

By investigating the visual effects of such simple transitions between light and shadow found in everyday life, it's opened up an ever-wider variety of possibilities for my future creative endeavors.

Technical Information | Cast concrete and glass, Pate de verre