

# PENLAND GALLERY

## AMBER MARSHALL

Spruce Pine, NC

**GLASS** | Blown glass

**Penland Affiliation** | Former Penland Student

**Artist Information** | Studio artist; education: BA Illinois State University; teaching: Third Degree Glass Factory; exhibitions: Smithsonian Craft Show (Washington DC), Philadelphia Museum of Craft Show (PA)

**Artist Biography** | Amber Marshall is a glass artist based in Spruce Pine, NC. In 2011 she moved from her home in St. Louis, Missouri to accept an artist residency at the Energy Xchange in the beautiful mountains of Western North Carolina. She currently shares a studio with her best friend, life partner, and fellow glassblower Michael Hayes.

**Artist Statement** | *My work is primarily sculptural glass that explores the material's inherent fluid-like properties when hot. I focus on creating organic forms rich with texture and undulating curves. These pieces are achieved with both careful intention and a healthy dose of play.*

*I don't know how to fully articulate what being a Midwesterner is or means, maybe because I am so thoroughly 'of' that region. I never contemplated it or had pride until I moved away from the Midwest to the South. I never had pride in it, until I left it. But when I try to think about my work and why glass, what pops up is that, my heritage. A long line of farmers, blue-collar workers, and independent business owners. People that liked to be outside. People prone to manual labor who were willing to get dirty. Stubbornly independent people made things both out of necessity and hobby. That is how I ended up being a glassblower. That is why I love a process that can be demanding and unforgiving at times. It feels like work. And because of the hard work of the people that came before me, I get the privilege of being a craft artist. I owe them everything.*