

FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY

DAVID HENDREN

Artist Statement

The task in these works is finding a place for all of the parts. Placing the glass is an elemental act. Mind, eye, hand. I'm still coming to terms with how to talk about it. No mediating tools. No ritual, other than coffee and music. But there are rehearsals. Most nights in the studio I push pieces around like refrigerator magnet poems. All the parts are free until fused in the kiln. The Matisse cut-outs come to mind. No struggle, no hand in the work. A series of simple gestures. Everything sits in the picture plane. Nothing feels "captured", caught in the act. There's an appealing lifted quality to the elements in that work. Placed together.

The kiln-forming process amplifies the seriousness of this task. It makes the placement permanent. The glass parts become a singular thing. I still don't know if they are paintings. Even today, when the discussion about painting's definition is deeply over, I still feel weird calling them "glass paintings". But I think that's the best way to describe experiencing them.

Hendren 2025 Artist Stmt