

FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY

JIM SCHELLER

Artist Statement

My work grows out of a simple place: the desire to understand how separate elements become something whole. I cut thousands of small pieces of glass, not to chase perfection, but because the process itself teaches me how a form develops, how a pattern holds together, and how time accumulates inside the work.

The *Ancient Rings* series began as an exploration of technique and slowly became something more. The ring structure gave me a way to organize color, rhythm, and movement, but it also opened a space for ideas I didn't expect — continuity, memory, the feeling that something older than me was working its way to the surface. I don't force meaning into the pieces. Meaning shows up when it's ready.

I approach each vessel the same way: one decision at a time, trusting both the engineering mindset that keeps me precise and the intuitive side that notices when the work starts to 'speak.' Sometimes that happens early; sometimes much later. Either way, the dialogue matters.

In the end, I think of these vessels as holding more than their shape. They carry the quiet logic of the making, the patience of repetition, and the small surprises that arrive when a piece reveals something I didn't plan. If there is a single thread running through all of it, it is this: the work is always teaching me, one fragment at a time.

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