

Nancy Blair—Bio

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Nancy Blair, MFA is both an artist and author. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Alfred University in New York and a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Studies from Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts in New Jersey.

Blair most recently completed a one-year appointment in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China as the Executive Artistic Director & Curator of YZ Creative Art Center where she oversaw the development of the largest glass center in Asia. She worked with architects, engineers and vendors to design, equip and supply a multi-disciplinary art program. She also established the visiting artists program.

In 2014 and 2015 she was an artist resident at the Dream Community Cultural Foundation in Taipei, Taiwan. During her residency she designed a "Healing Garden" space in a courtyard area for a residential building project.

In 2012 she worked as the project manager in collaboration with Rick Bartow on a permanent, site-specific sculpture installation for the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian.

In 2012 and 2009 she was a resident artist at The Tacoma Museum of Glass.

In 2011 she was commissioned by the Oregon Council of Art for a public arts installation at Western Oregon State University in Monmouth, Oregon. The work includes cast glass and carved wood by Rick Bartow.

The Nordstrom Design Team chose her glass sculpture in 2010 to be displayed in their Seattle store window.

She has been honored with a Hauberg Fellowship and a Professional Artist in Residency at Pilchuck Glass School in February 2011, May 2008 and March 2007 respectively. She taught glass casting at Pilchuck Glass School in 2006, 2008, 2010. She is also a scholarship recipient, staff member, and teaching assistant there. In addition, she has been a teaching assistant at The Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass in New York, and Wheaton Village (Museum of American Glass, Millville, New Jersey).

Her business expertise is extensive. She was the president of Star River Productions, the Great Goddess Collection; a manufacturing and mail order catalog company, for over thirteen years. Her responsibilities included oversight of product development, outsourcing, advertising, marketing, and catalog creation including photography, graphic design, and copy writing. Her experience and expertise in creative services and marketing during this time was highly regarded in many newspapers including the New Yorker magazine and other business journals. She was the first in her city to be awarded Community Business Association funding. She was a prominent member of the Rutgers University "Business Innovative Center" and the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners."

Her art work has been commissioned by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Oliver Stone's *The Doors Project*, the Franklin Mint, The National Women's Education Association and the United States Olympic Equestrian Museum.

Her memoir, *Thank You, Your Opinion Means Nothing To Me*, is published by HarperCollinsPublishers. She received critical acclaim in USAWeekend Magazine, Florida Today, and a highly regarded review by Olympia Dukakis. Interviews have appeared in New Yorker magazine, and she was listed in Manhattan Arts Magazine as an artist "to watch." She has won numerous awards and grants including the Manhattan Council for the Arts Award and the Urban Glass residency.

She has been interviewed internationally for radio and television and was featured in a PBS special: Faith and Feminism.

Her work is in the collection of Sir Elton John, Rutgers University Marjorie Douglass Library, The Museum of Modern Art, the National Equestrian Museum and the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington.

My work stems from a lifelong interest in the seasons and cycles of Nature, ancient myth, memory, women's spirituality, and art as a healing modality.

The images I use reflect my emotions, dreams, the natural world around me, my relationships, and a deep, heart-felt interest in the sacred meaning of the natural world. By combining everyday objects, iconic and classical images, and symbols rich with magic and meaning, a curious new story emerges; fragments of experience becoming whole in a fiery, narrative stew. I aim to invent storied images that are evocative, mysterious and rich with feminist meaning.

I am fascinated by the voluptuous excesses that accumulate, clutter and distract, and at the same time can elevate the ordinary detritus of daily life into extraordinary objects that demand attention and reverence, transforming the ordinary toward the extraordinary.

The nature of working in clay and glass is demanding and intense, and like life itself is potentially unpredictable, entirely rewarding.

Her mostly narrative sculptures and installation works combine cast glass, ceramics, photography, works on paper, and a series of videos entitled "One Minute Meds."