

## **Dan Barnes**

“I started developing my own ideas ... I knew that if I was going to get into this as an art form, and I wanted to do it right, that I needed to find a way to set myself apart, something that distinguished me as doing something unique with glass.”

Dan Barnes first learned the satisfaction of creating something from an idea working alongside his father and uncles, who were builders and craftsmen in Henderson County. He earned his BA in Human Environmental Design from the University of Kentucky, where he studied with Arturo Sandoval, a fiber artist known for using experimental techniques and unconventional materials. After college, Barnes earned a reputation for his design flair in the upholstery and furniture design business, but he wasn't satisfied. Seeking another creative outlet, Barnes studied stained glass with Laura Hallock and began making traditional stained glass pieces, such as Tiffany style lamps. It wasn't long before he was pushing the limits of his new art form, creating 3-dimensional effects and merging glass with painted metal, turned wood, and fabric in multimedia creations. He invites the viewer to experience glass in a whole new way, often in a sculptural context. Sometimes he adds light to highlight the rich luminosity of the glass. He combines a respect for his materials and a dedication to fine craftsmanship with the creativity of an explorer to push the idea of glass in art to a whole new level.