



## JİYONG LEE

### Bio

Jiyong Lee is a studio artist and educator who lives and works in Carbondale, Illinois. A professor of art at Southern Illinois University, Lee has headed the glass program there since 2005. Lee was born and raised in South Korea. He earned his MFA from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York and taught there for several years. As an instructor, he also has taught at the Studio of the Corning Museum of Glass, Pilchuck Glass School, Penland School of Crafts, the Pittsburgh Glass Center, the Domaine de Boisbuchet in France, Canberra Glassworks in Australia, Fire Station Artists' Studios in Dublin, Ireland, and various other art institutions and universities nationally and internationally. Lee has served as a member of the board of directors for the Glass Art Society from 2009 till 2015. He has won a number of honors, including 2021 Finalist of Loewe Foundation Craft Prize, Bavarian State Prize from International Trade Fair, Munich Germany, the Emerging Artist Award from the Glass Art Society. His work was featured in American Craft Magazine, Neues Glas (Germany), New Glass Review of Corning Museum of Glass, and American Art Collector. His work has been exhibited and collected nationally and internationally and recent highlights include Translucency exhibition in Tallinn Applied Art Triennial in Estonia, Loewe Foundation Craft Prize exhibition, and KOREA NOW exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, an acquisition by the Barry Art Museum, Corning Museum of Glass, and Chanel France.

### Artist Statement

The segmentation series is inspired by my fascination with microcosm and science of cell, its division and the journey of growth that starts from a single cell and goes through a million divisions to become a life. I work with glass that has a variety of transparency, translucency, and opacity, the qualities that serve as perfect metaphors for what is known and unknown about life science. The segmented, geometrical or biomorphic forms of my work represent cells, embryos, biological and molecular structures—each symbolizing the building blocks of life as well as the starting point of life. The uniquely refined translucent glass surfaces suggest the mysterious qualities of cells and, on a larger scale, the cloudiness of their futures. The Segmentation series is subtle and quiet yet structurally complex. In each work the clear solid glass is transformed through cutting, lamination, carving, and surface refining processes to make art that is both beautiful and deeply invested with meaning.