

Start at home

Crumpled Forms

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The main thing I like about glassblowing is that it doesn't lie...
If you treat it badly, it will remember and it will show.
I think it keeps you honest.

Liam Fleming, 2018, Marmalade

About the artist

Liam Fleming's parents and grandparents encouraged him to appreciate art and design from an early age. Young Liam was fascinated by the drama and magic of glassblowing and began working with glass at just sixteen. After gaining hands-on experience (complete with gloves) at an independent studio, Liam specialised in glass at the University of South Australia, became a Production Manager at the JamFactory, and began to attract national recognition for his clean-lined, lyrical glass forms. Liam has travelled the world with his art and was a finalist in the 2021 Ramsay Art Prize.

About the work

As well as creating works of art, Liam Fleming also manufactures glass products for people to use and enjoy in their homes. These functional objects need to be strong, sound and technically perfect. There is no room for error in their production.

Post-Production is a creative rebellion against this rigid mode of making. For this body of work, Liam has attacked his own masterfully-crafted structures with extreme temperatures and rough handling, allowing the glass to swell, sag, twist and bend in an experimental way. Destruction becomes a creative act as the forms acquire unique and compelling crumples and curves.

Presented by





Materials you need

- 3 to 5 empty recyclable containers (drink cans, milk cartons, tissue or cereal boxes)
- 2 cups of rice or some small rocks
- coloured paper or wrapping paper
- sticky tape
- masking tape

Take it further

For a more durable crumpled sculpture, use a hammer to bend and warp tin cans, with adult supervision. You can paint your sculpture with acrylic paint if you roughen it with sandpaper or steel wool first.

Think about the idea of *creative destruction*. How could you apply it to a different art medium? What else could you make by breaking something down?

Create your own Crumpled Forms

- 1 Make sure all containers are clean and dry, and remove ring-pulls from any drink cans.
- 2 Place a handful of rice or a couple of small rocks in each container. This will weigh down the bottom and allow them to stand upright.
- 3 Seal up the containers with tape, closing flaps and covering any openings. Fold down and tape the tops of milk cartons so they are flat at both ends. Give your containers a gentle shake to make sure the rice won't fall out.
- 4 Cover the containers completely with coloured paper or wrapping paper, and secure with sticky tape. Place them all on a table, standing up straight.
- 5 Pick up one of the containers and gently squeeze it with your hands. Notice what happens to the cardboard or tin, and how the form changes under pressure. What if you press harder, or push on just one side? Stand it up again to see how it looks now. Then continue squashing and warping the form. Stop when you like how it looks.
- 6 Repeat with each form, bending and crunching them in different ways. Then stand up all your crumpled sculptures and look at them. Do they seem to have different feelings or personalities? Which ones do you like best? Can you arrange them in an interesting way that seems to tell a story?

Post-Production is on display in Gallery 10 as part of the Ramsay Art Prize exhibition until August 22, 2021

installation view detail Ramsay Art Prize 2021 featuring *Post-Production* by Liam Fleming, 2020; Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide; photo: Saul Steed.

We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

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