

JINYA ZHAO

PORTFOLIO 2025





# Artist Biography

Jinya Zhao is an artist and researcher whose practice explores the sensory and perceptual dimensions of blown glass. She holds a BA from the China Academy of Art (2017) and an MA and MRes from the Royal College of Art (2019, 2021), where she is currently pursuing a PhD. Her research investigates how materiality, colour, and spatial layering shape audience perception and evoke memory and emotion.

She has been an artist-in-residence at Southern Illinois University, USA (2019), Taoxichuan Glass Studio, China (2022), and Pilchuck Glass School, USA (2023). Her work is held in collections including the Prague Gallery of Czech Glass, Qingdao Art Museum, Ulster Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Jinya introduces the concept of "synaesthetic touch," proposing that blown glass can bridge visual, tactile, and spatial sensory experiences to deepen audience engagement. Through opacity manipulation, layering, and spatial positioning, she explores how glass can function as both a material and conceptual medium, shaping perception beyond the purely visual. Her research also examines "layerspace"—the interplay between depth, structure, and spatial narratives—and "site," considering how environmental and cultural contexts influence the reception of glass works.

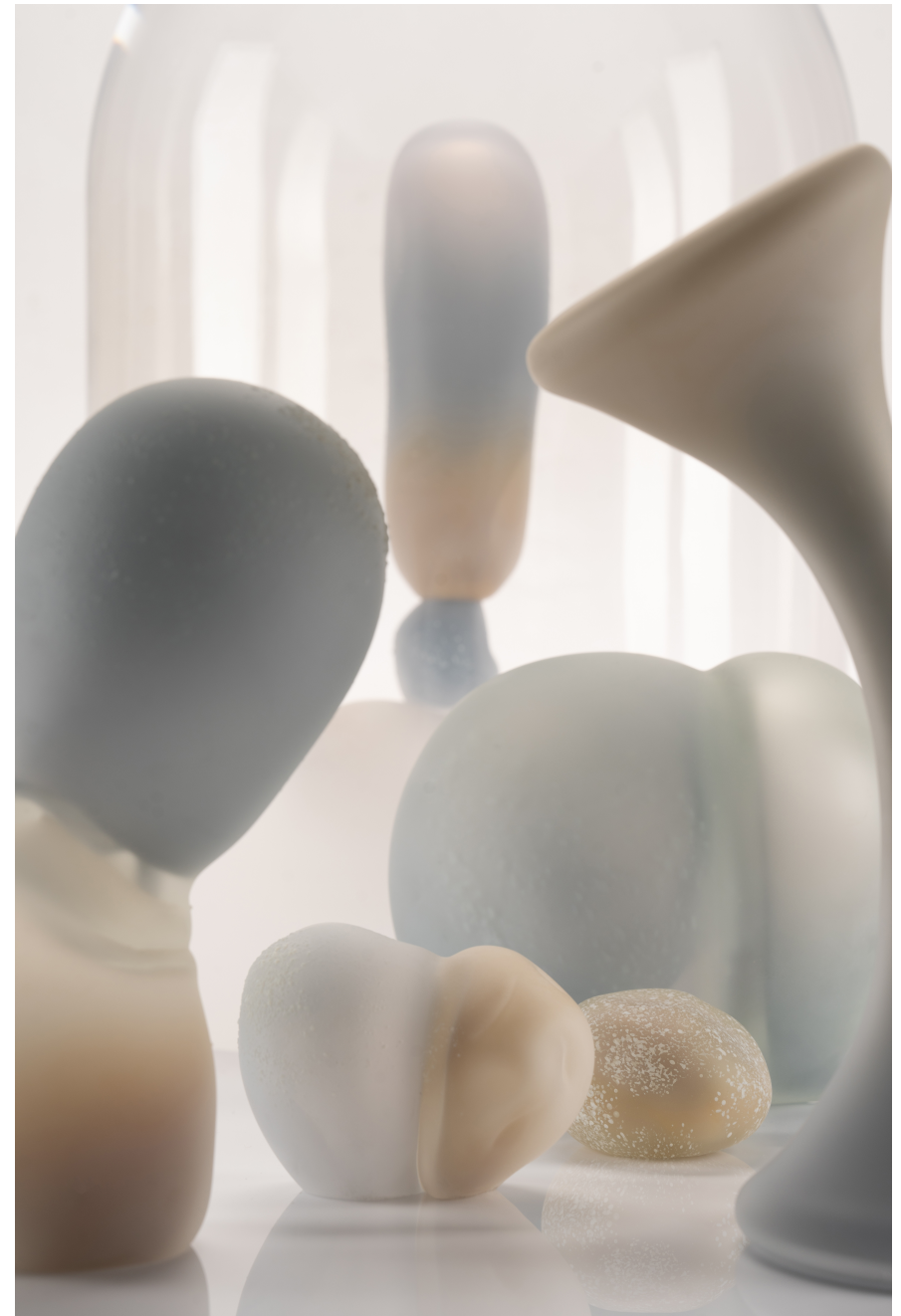
By integrating theory and practice, Jinya constructs immersive encounters that heighten sensory awareness, transforming glass into an artistic language that connects memory, perception, and experience.

In her latest body of work, Jinya delves into the transformative potential of glass through the concept of synaesthetic touch. This innovative approach bridges sensory experiences—blurring the boundaries between sight, touch, and the intangible interplay of light, texture, and motion.

The inherent fluidity of glass plays a central role, capturing the delicate balance between its molten, flowing origins and its solid, enduring form. This fluidity becomes a metaphor for the emotional landscape, embodying the shifts and transitions of human feelings—transient, elusive, yet deeply resonant.

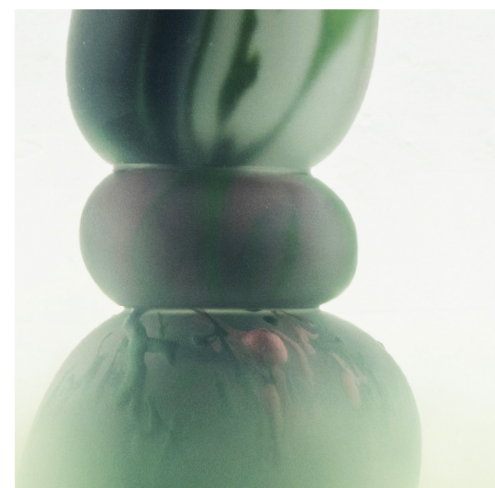
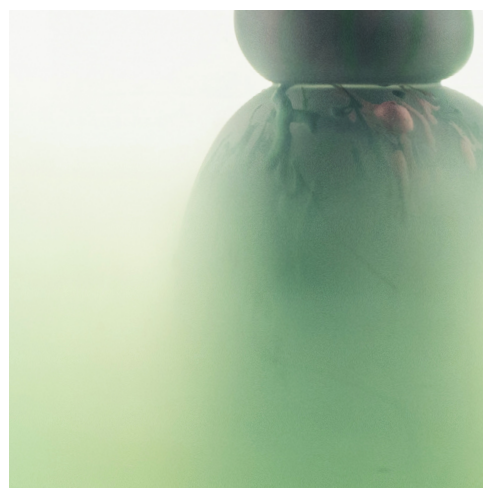
Each piece invites the viewer to explore beyond the visual, awakening tactile memories and visceral responses through its interplay of shimmering translucency, intricate textures, and dynamic shapes. By weaving these sensory threads together, Jinya creates a meditative dialogue between the material and the observer, revealing the unseen connections between physical presence and ephemeral emotion.

Through synaesthetic touch, Jinya challenges conventional perceptions of glass, transforming it into a medium of heightened sensation and introspection. This collection is an invitation to slow down, to feel deeply, and to experience the poetry of glass as a bridge between the tangible and the intangible, the flowing and the still, the emotional and the material.





*Time Distiller*, 2024  
Size: 52 x 33 x 33 cm

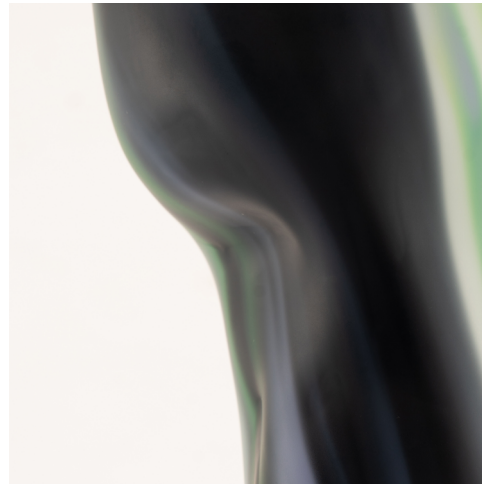


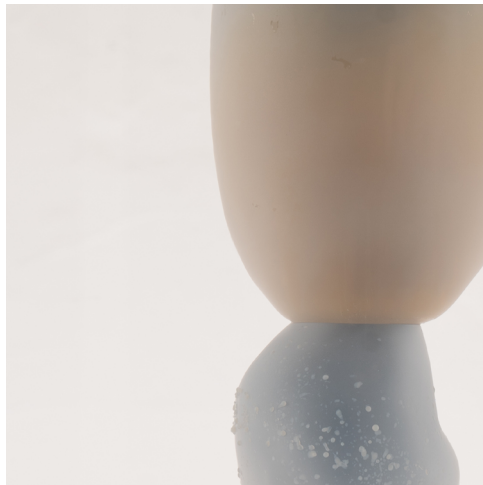




*Still Still, 2024*

Size: 51 x 10 x 11 cm

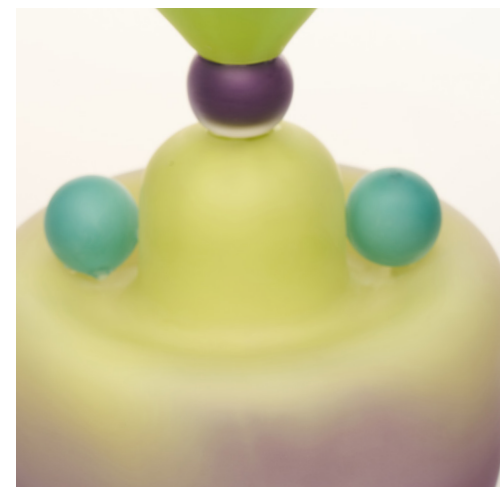
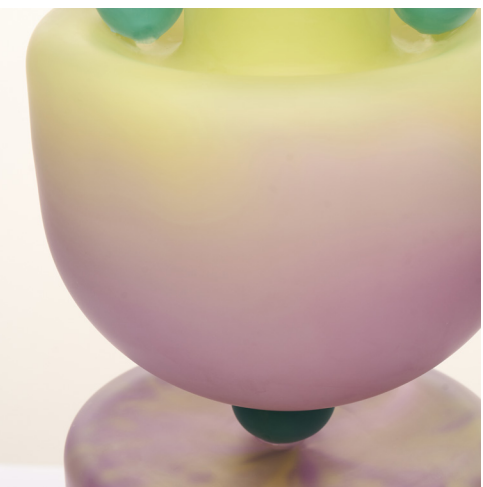








*Mixture Memory*, 2023  
Size: 51.2 x 16 x 16 cm





*Memory of San Jose, 2022*  
Size: 27x27x47cm

