

*Art. Craft. Design.*

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***By Design:***  
***Kayla Ohlmer & Ryan Kepler***

**On View:** April 5, 2024 – May 26, 2024

**Hours:** Wednesday - Sunday, 12:00 - 5:00 pm

**Opening:** First Friday, April 5, 2024, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

**Artist Talk:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 pm



Ryan Kepler, *Chroma*

***For Immediate Release-***

**Tulsa, Okla.** - 108|Contemporary is proud to continue our 2024 year of exhibitions focusing on Oklahoma artists with ***By Design: Kayla Ohlmer & Ryan Kepler***. On view from April 5 – May 26, 2024, this exhibition uses a range of traditional and experimental glassmaking techniques. Join us for the exhibition opening on **Friday, April 5, 2024 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm** for an evening of art admiring and a new I Spy Challenge and Craft Kit based on the exhibit.



Kayla Ohlmer, *Satin Droplet*

The work in *By Design* highlights different qualities of glass and examines how those characteristics affect the way in which we interact with the material. Both artists' bodies of work explore themes of value, perception, natural phenomenon, and the sublime. Through exploring the materiality of glass, the artists investigate the ways in which different traits, shapes, and material properties create a subjective perception of beauty and value.

Ohlmer and Kepler use contrasting textures and forms to influence their work and explore the physical properties of glass while challenging and complimenting the way in which the other uses the material. Kepler uses glass as a medium to distort, defuse, or enhance the way light interacts with its environment through diffusion, color density, pattern, and illusion. Ohlmer uses the material qualities of glass, form, and texture to investigate themes of duality, distortion, and perception. This exhibition contains a mixture of experimental processes informed by traditional glassmaking methods used to create an array of sculptural works.

Growing up in Oklahoma, Kayla began blowing glass in Oklahoma City when she was in high school. She attended Centre College in Kentucky where she graduated with a BA in Studio Art in 2014. After graduating she worked as a Studio Assistant at the Chrysler Museum Glass Studio in Norfolk VA and has been privileged to learn at other institutions such as Pilchuck Glass School and Penland School of Craft. In 2020, she received her MFA from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and is currently the Program Director at Tulsa Glassblowing School in Oklahoma.

Ryan Kepler, born in 1993, is an artist and craftsperson living and working in Tulsa Oklahoma. Growing up he spent time around his grandfather's foundry and was naturally drawn to being a craftsperson. He began working with glass in 2011 at Palomar College in San Diego, CA. Over the next decade, Kepler continued his education in glassmaking as a student and teaching assistant at Pilchuck Glass School, and Penland School of Craft. During this time, he has worked as a gaffer and with various artists throughout the country. In his own practice, he creates work that exemplifies the intuitive qualities of the material. Kepler is currently the Director of Promotions and Sales at Tulsa Glassblowing School.

To learn more from the artists, join us for an Artist Talk with Kayla and Ryan on **Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 5:30 pm** in the exhibition space. Doors open at 5:00 pm. ASL interpretation will be provided. This event and exhibition are free and open to the public.

*108 | Contemporary is a nonprofit community arts organization dedicated to exhibiting the finest in contemporary craft and supporting the artists who create it. Our vision is a community where world-class craft and design inspire and educate audiences of all ages, where diverse cultural traditions flourish, and local artists thrive. All participants are welcome. If you need disability-related accommodations, please call +1 (918) 895-6302 or email [info@108contemporary.org](mailto:info@108contemporary.org).*