

# Ron Seivertson

What's on the horizon Ron?

"The future is exciting!" Is his lightening response. Being well aware of Ron's persona, I am immediately taken with his zest.

Let me describe a little about Ron Seivertson so you can form an image of him in your minds eye. Intelligent and witty, dynamic and fascinating, Seivertson is a highly artistic being; the type of wild and wonderful expat character that Ubud is renowned for. Not only is he a talented amateur singer, song writer and guitarist, his driving passion in life is for one of the most captivating creative expressions you are likely to witness - the art of blowing and sculpting hot glass. Ron Seivertson is the founder and proprietor of one of Bali's most exciting artistic centers - Horizon Glassworks.

Being a witness to Seivertson at work and his energy and precision, while enduring enormous heat and rigorous physical activity is enthralling and will be permanently encoded upon your mind. One of the first questions that springs forth as he magically gathers, spins, shapes and forges molten glass into extraordinary forms right before your eyes is, how on earth does he do that? The answer is quite simple, dedication and skill, along with endless hours of practice.

"I have recently completed plans for a large new workshop facility," Seivertson says. "It includes 4 studios at the back of the current horizon property, one with a warm glass kiln, another a studio for hot cast glass, a mixed media studio and a bronze casting foundry; the first of its kind in Bali." My imagination went into overdrive as I sensed the breadth of this concept.

"These are all learning studios, as well as this being a viable business venture. Of course the bronze foundry will be a godsend for local and foreign sculptors helping to realize the potential of traditional and contemporary sculpture in Bali."

Born 1961 in Sacramento, California, USA, Seivertson had been working out of the States, yet with a house here in Bali, decided to relocate the studio to Ubud and Horizon Glassworks was born some 9 years ago. Its original location was 5 kilometers north of the current multi story showroom and studio complex, opened in January 2014, and is located on the right hand side of Jalan Raya Negari, 15 minutes south from Ubud.

"The market for our products is global, along with the market for education. We have teachers from all over the world who wish to come here and work and many people are interested in this new venture. Horizon is open to the public and people walk straight in off the street and witness the world of glass making. Visitors often watch mesmerized, and absolutely love the experience," he says. "We have always had workshops available to the public."

The new Horizon complex features a 3 storey, 1000 square meter display area and a hot shop of 360 square meters with a variety of kilns and production facilities. The new master plan includes a large multi purpose function room on the lower level and a seventy-seat bistro.

Unbeknown to Seivertson when he was initially captured by the hot glass bug, that he had a family history of glass making in Northern Europe reaching back over two hundred years. He vividly recalled to me the day when, travelling through the mid USA, as a retired construction worker, he wandered into a hot glass workshop and experienced an enormous and unique energy exchange. The guy working the glass then looked him straight in the eye and said, "Hey bro, glass is for you!"

"This was the most profound experience of my life." Seivertson immediately knew he needed to expressive his innate creativity, and how. "This is my destiny and drives me to do everything. I believe we each have a calling, an essence that is deeply personal and draws us to our own creative passions."

Trained at the world-recognised centre for hot glass, Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State, Seivertson along with a host of other glass masters have strived to push this art form to new creative limits at Horizon. Such a cutting edge project was the Glass Age Series created in 2 six week sessions in 2009-10 by a team of international artists. Requiring an enormous budget this 135 piece collection, featured Java Man, an anatomically accurate pre-Neolithic Homo erectus skeleton, plus full-sized spears, a saber-toothed tiger skull, and numerous other historical impressionistic artifacts.

This is a world class project, one of the most advanced and technically challenging ever undertaken requiring enormous skill, passion and ability, along with the dedication and relentless trial and error to produce unique pieces that would justifiably be at home in any international museum. These works are luminous and pulsating with life.

“My creative process is highly intuitive, while often I sense there is a metaphysical relationship at play. Working with hot glass talks to my heart and soul.”

“Now,” Seivertson says. “I feel as if I am now experiencing a second calling. The business is unsustainable so we need to diversify and after a decade of experience, and considering the developmental stage of my career, its time to give my knowledge away and to teach others the skills. At Horizon we wish to be part of the continuum and see a new generation carry on the art.”

“There is a great need to provide a facility to teach this art as some trades are dying out. If we succeed in bringing people here from Asia, a region without a glass making history, this will be a boon. We are networking with institutes throughout Indonesia and many are already coming to study our work, all without too much effort on our behalf.”

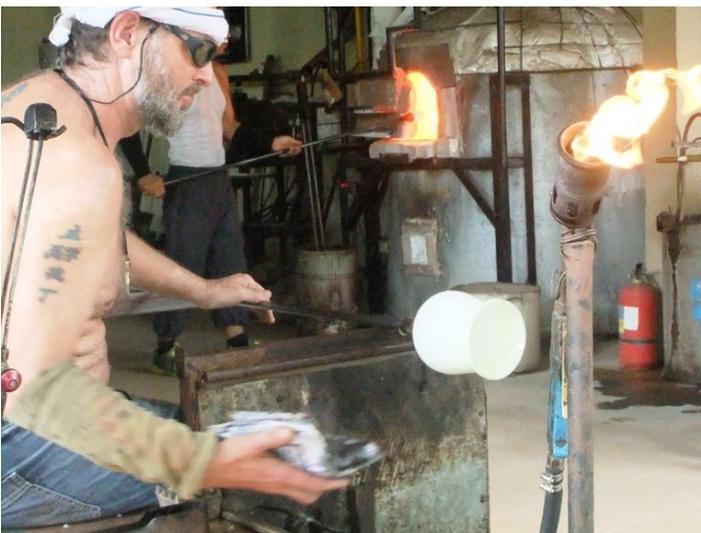
The future may be both exciting and daunting for some, yet for Ron Seivertson the future cannot come too soon.

Horizon Glassworks offers beginner to advanced glass blowing instruction courses, from 2.5 hour lessons to month-long artist in residence programs for glass art professionals.

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Published in UbudLife Magazine March – May 2015





Ron Seivertson in the Horizon Glass Workshop.



One of the outstanding archeological creations from the 2009 Glass Age Series.



Java Man from the Glass Age Series

