

This project is inspired by Paul Stankard, an artist who makes botanical paperweight sculptures featuring tiny glass plants and insects.

Materials:

- Plastic sphere
- Model Magic air-dry clay
- Assorted plastic flowers and bees; artificial moss
- Cinquain poem template
- *Optional:* elements from nature you collect outside [not provided]
- *Optional:* markers or paint to add designs to your base [not provided]

Instructions:

1. **Gather your materials.** Think about what additional elements from nature (rocks, sticks, leaves, sand) you might want to incorporate into your sculpture. Remember that some natural materials will break down over time.

2. **Shape your clay onto the plastic bottom of the sphere.** This will serve as the base of your sculpture. You can use markers or paint to add details to the base.

3. **Arrange your materials on the clay into a composition that you like.** Remember that your sculpture has to fit inside the opening of the sphere! Work small and build straight up to make it easier to fit.

Pssst: Stankard sometimes hides human faces on the bottoms of his sculptures...will you choose to hide something secret in yours?

4. When your sculpture is done, **carefully fit the dome of the sphere over the sculpture and the base.**

5. **Write a poetic response.** Use the cinquain poem template to create a poem about your sculpture.



We'd love to see what you create!
Take a picture of your final product and send it to
info@cafesjianarttrust.org.

Paul Stankard’s work is inspired by his walks through the woods. He carefully observes the fine details of plants and insects and later re-creates them in glass. To make these tiny, intricate artworks, Stankard uses a flame to heat up thin rods of glass, which he then shapes into his botanical designs. He encapsulates his final design with molten clear glass.

Aside from his great appreciation of nature, the artist is also inspired by poetry. Writes Stankard, “[Walt] Whitman’s poetry led me to pursue a convergence of writing, teaching, and glass art-making. His celebration of the ordinary as extraordinary gave me pride in my celebration of familiar things – blossoms, bees, roots and leaves – encased in glass.”¹

Want to see how these paperweights get made? Scan here for a 4-minute video of the artist at work.



Paul Stankard (American, b 1943), *Botanical Paperweight with Blueberries, Honeycomb, and Bee*, 1994, flameworked and cased glass. Cafesjian Art Trust 2022.114.9



Paul Stankard (American, b 1943), *Damselfly and Mask Paperweight*, 2002, flameworked and cased glass. Cafesjian Art Trust 2022.114.7



Paul Stankard (American, b 1943), *Dragonfly and Root Paperweight*, 2000, flameworked and cased glass. Cafesjian Art Trust 2022.114.4

PRODUCTIVE POLLINATORS

Pollinators (like bees and damselflies) visit flowers in their search for nectar. As they do, they transfer pollen from flower to flower. The plants then use the pollen to produce a fruit or seed. Many plants cannot reproduce without the pollen carried to them by pollinators.

For more on how you can help protect pollinators, visit

<https://www.usda.gov/peoples-garden/pollinators>