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Artist Statement

I have always been excited by sculpture — particularly kinetic sculpture. I vividly remember the first time I saw Robert Breer's Floats — large, sleek domes that move slowly and silently until they touch something, which causes them to pause, then change direction. I was probably about eight years old, and these beautiful, magical, moving things caught my eye and imagination like nothing had before. It felt like the artist created life. I was captivated, delighted, and inspired. At the time, I had no idea the importance of that encounter, but I recognize it now as one of the most profound experiences of my childhood — one that would hold my interest and guide my artwork to this day.

I make art because I want to create life. My sculptures are oil-filled kinetic glass cylinders I call Sea Cores. The name and shape are loosely based on core samples scientist take to study the ocean, but I make no attempt to represent any known sea life. Instead, I invent my own inhabitants for these magical worlds. I choose glass as my medium because it allows me to manipulate the color and transparency of each individual creature. Since Sea Cores are designed to be looked through, rather than simply looked at, the transparent colors blend and form new colors from every vantage point. I focus on the movement of the air bubbles, and the patterns created by the bubbles as they weave through the glass and travel up the core. I plan the placement of each suspended creature in the bubble path to get subtle lifelike movement throughout the sculpture. This allows me to create living environments that generate the same excitement I felt as a child. ■