

ALUMNI

Lothar Böttcher



D S P
Deutsche
Internationale
Schule
Pretoria

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DSP Alumni Update

Enthusiasm for creating and working with his hands

*In this Alumni-Update we introduce renowned sculptor of glass, **Lothar Böttcher**, who not only gives us a brief overview of his life but also some food for thought for our learners about future career choices.*



Born to German immigrants in 1973, I grew up on our family plot in Kameeldrift East on the outskirts of Pretoria. I went to school at Die Poort Laerskool and F.H. Odendaal High School till 1989. I attended the Deutsche Schule Pretoria for grades 11 and 12, staying in the Schülerheim and matriculated in 1991.

After school I studied Fine and Applied Arts at the Tshwane University of Technology, completing Sculpture, Glass, Photography and Printmaking.

In 1997 I enrolled at the Staatliche Glasfachschule Hadamar, Germany, graduating as journeyman with the title Glasveredler - Fachrichtung Schliff (Glass cutter & cold worker) in 2000.

My father was a master carpenter and I guess the apple does not fall far from the tree...

Returning to my hometown Pretoria in 2001, I founded my company, [Obsidian Glass](#). Since then, I've been an active participant in the South African art scene, using my skills and

passion to give glass a voice within contemporary South African arts.

[Blow Your Sculpture](#) was launched in 2014, a collaborative project introducing glass as sculptural medium to South African artists, with its fourth iteration planned for 2021.

I am a longtime member of the Glass Art Society, The Association of Arts, Pretoria (of which I'm also a committee member) as well as Glasspool e.V. and Bundesverband Kunsthandwerk in Germany.

[Pocket Lens](#) was selected for the New Glass Now exhibition in 2019 at the Corning Museum of Glass. My work was also selected for New Glass Review 32 & 38 and published in the Schiffer Art Book Glass Art: 112 Contemporary Artists.

I recently completed Section I & II as Glass Cutter / Cold Worker (Meisterkurs Glasveredler - Fachrichtung Schliff Teil I & II) at the Glasfachschule Zwiesel, Germany.

I personally believe there are many ways to follow your passions. An academic career has its merits but not everyone is cut out for that. Vocational studies teach hands-on skills and form the cornerstone of each society.

Just imagine a society of only doctors, engineers and accountants... Who will assist and tend to the patients in hospitals? Who builds and constructs the roads, dams and bridges? Who manufactures the desks, installs the lighting and maintains the lifts in office buildings?

Working with our hands is what makes us *Homo Faber* - man as maker!

Irrespective of your choice for the future, it takes passion, hard work and dedication to fulfil your dreams and be the best at what you do... and never stop learning!



We welcome alumni who share their experience, successes and knowledge with us.

If you are interested please contact alumni@dsp.gp.school.za

