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## **Misunderstanding**

*By Nikki Pynn*

**Artist Statement:** "Misunderstanding" is a precarious piece intended to make the viewer/participant uneasy. It's an experimental piece in that it has a lot more movement than the other bike wheel pieces I've made. When someone initiates the wheels movement, the flexibility of the bottom circle causes the whole sculpture to sway. The bike wheel series challenges the notion that art can't be touched. The wheels must be touched to move, adding physical interaction as part of the experience.

**Artist Biography:** I chose stained glass as my main medium while attending Virginia Commonwealth University, where I earned a BFA in Painting and Printmaking, 1980, I worked in my own, self-taught style until 1989 when I became employed by Sledd/ Winger Studio, Richmond, VA. There, I learned the traditional method of making stained glass panels. I continued perfecting my skills in that manner until 2012. At that time, I decided to experiment with glass in found objects. My first piece was in a bike wheel sitting in a stand that allowed it to rotate. I went on to try working in broken and out of date objects I happened to have. A fish growing wings to survive it's new situation and a rabbit with moving ears in a TV antenna grew out of those pieces. I returned to my original self-taught style mixed with traditional methods. My work has evolved from using traditional methods of working in stained glass, inserted into recycled bike parts to layering of glass pieces surrounded by lead or zinc and physically supporting each other to develop a stronger piece.