

## Astros present Bokrosh original Crystal Bat™ to record-setting Biggio

*Contact – Bokrosh Studio, 1905 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Seattle WA 98115 (206) 860-9748*



SEATTLE, WA August 12, 2007 – This Sunday the Houston Astros honor their veteran second baseman, Craig Biggio, by presenting him with an eight pound solid Crystal Baseball Bat™ created by Bokrosh Studios in Seattle, Washington. The Bat was created to commemorate Biggio’s surpassing the 3,000 career hit mark on June 28, 2007. The Crystal Baseball Bat™ is an exact glass replica of Craig Biggio’s own wooden baseball bat, made by the internationally recognized Seattle glass artist Michael Bokrosh. Bokrosh, a lifelong fan of baseball, combines his artistic expression with innovative techniques to craft the Crystal Bat™ from Optical Crystal glass, which is the finest glass known and made in the USA.

“I first envisioned the Crystal Baseball Bat in 1999 after seeing hand-blown glass variations by local Seattle glassblowers,” explained Bokrosh. “While their glass mastery was evident, I instinctively knew that a more brilliant result could be attained.” The solution for Bokrosh came about by employing the exquisite quality of optical glass, something which cannot be achieved with a glassblower’s hot technique: “I knew I would have to actually grind down the surface of the glass to the desired shape and size then, polish the surface to perfect clarity.”

Because of the inherent fragility and delicacy of working with optical glass, extreme caution must be used throughout the whole process. Over two months of painstaking accuracy goes into making each Crystal Baseball Bat™, and there is virtually no room for error throughout the 16 separate stages. Once a Crystal Baseball Bat™ is completed the properties of optical glass are delightfully exhibited within its beautifully transparent nature.

In creating this award for Craig Biggio, Bokrosh shares his appreciation of the alchemy in the sport and art worlds: “Given the steady contributions this ‘hero of the diamond’ has achieved both on and off the field, Mr.



Michael Bokrosh

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Biggio is the ideal recipient of this glass award. Professional athletes, like good artists, combine their natural gifts with hard work to allow their creative talents to shine through.”

*Media Elements* – Three minute Video (DVD presentation). Separate data disk (four video file formats, Crystal Bat™ photos, Bokrosh photo, photos of gallery artwork, MS Word documents: Press Release, Artist Statement and Bio).

*About the Artist* – Born in Mankato, Minnesota in 1953. At the age of 14 Bokrosh began learning his craft with father, Michael Jr. at the Zeno Glass Company. In 1979 he served an apprenticeship in the former Yugoslavia; Bokrosh then graduated from the Orrefors School of Glass, Sweden in 1981. Opening Bokrosh Studio in Seattle, Washington in 1985, the artist has exhibited internationally for the past 22 years.