

Bending Glass for Lampshades
Battle Mountain Symposium

**PROFILE: James Erickson** 

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INDUSTRIAL



BEVELCRAFTER II

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MARK IV PRO



BEVELCRAFTER III

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OISTROUTORS/WHOLESALERS
Arkanas: Merry Go Round: Fr Smith California: Stained Pane.
Anahem, Nervo Distributors. Berkeley Francescan Glass. Mr. View. New
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KINDIG ENTERPRISES 1904 Serge Avenue San Jose, California 95130

## GLASS EAST GLASS EAST GLASS EAST GLASS

Robert Sowers from Brooklyn, New York is a prolific member of the contemporary stained glass movement in the United States. Sowers has written two books: "The Lost Art: A Survey of 1000 Years of Stained Glass," and "Stained Glass: An Architectural Art." He has just completed a third book, "The Language of Stained Glass," which will be published by Timber Press in Portland, Oregon early next year.

Arts in order to spend a year or more exploring various new forms of portraiture in glass.

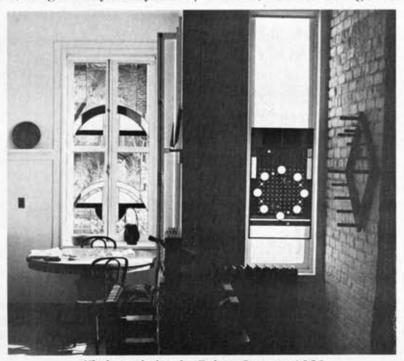
Fiorito's basic philosophy about his work is that a "cooperative studio idea is a good one; it may be the wave of the future in light of possible difficult economic conditions that might sink many individual artist/makers." He adds, "In any case, the atmosphere in the studio should be safe, creative, and fun-loving. Working Sam Wiener, a New York Citybased artist, has been concentrating his efforts for the past five years on glasswork that is laminated sheet (mostly), plate, heavy plate combined with concrete, wood and other materials. (See photo.) His glass sculpture has been shown in a number of galleries over the years including the "National Glass Invitational" in New York City, and "Galeria Naviglio" in Venice and Milan.

Wiener studied art and architecture at Yale School of Fine Arts, receiving his B.F.A. in 1951. While there, he studied with Louis Kahn, Josef Albers, and Willem de Kooning, among others. Wiener has been a faculty member of Columbia University School of Architecture and the Cooper Union Art School.

In addition to his sculptural work, Wiener paints, and collaborates with many architects on executing commissions for murals in various materials, and stained glass commissions. He has done some 80 commissions including tile murals for American Airlines Terminal, JFK International Airport and stained glass for Congregation Agudath Sholom, Stamford, Conn.

Harriet Hyams, a stained glass artist from Teaneck. New Jersey, has worked with glass for the last 13 years. Prior to that, she worked in stone, wood and metal. Hyams' work is included in public and private collections throughout the country. She has had twelve solo exhibits during her career as an artist as well as a number of group shows including the recent exhibit, "Women in Glass," at the Craftsman's Gallery in Scarsdale, New York.

Hyams is presently working on a major commission for the New Dorp High School on Staten Island, and she says this commission is possibly a "first" of its kind in her area. She explains: "The stained glass will be sandwiched between lexan on the exterior and tempered glass on the interior. A major challenge will be to overcome the obvious problems built into this set of circumstances. Can the stained glass really exist beautifully in this protected situation? What will be the trade offs?"



Kitchen window by Robert Sowers, 1980.

Sowers' work can be found in several collections such as the late Nelson Rockefeller's, and the Suermondt Museum in Aachen, West Germany. Major commissions done by Sowers include the American Airlines Terminal at Kennedy International Airport, St. Michael's Church in San Francisco, and Temple Mishkan Tefile in Newton, Massachusetts.

Sal Fiorito of Stained Glass Associates, 2424 18th St. N.W., Washington D.C., works out of an 1100 square foot studio with one assistant and several apprentices. They produce autonomous works as well as architectural commissions. Fiorito is presently waiting to receive a grant from the D.C. Commission on the

with glass should always be an exuberant exercise, 'illuminating' if you will, if it is to best express or depict the intended ideas."

For the past several years Fiorito has been intrigued with the concept of "three-dimensional effects in the two-dimensional form — both realistic and abstract geometric illusion as I am able to use them in flat, leaded form." He sees this illusion as one way to loosen up some of the restraint of abstract color glazing where raw glass and lead have to carry the entire creative "load." Fiorito plans to use more specialized techniques as well as glass paint where appropriate. (See photo.)

Since 1976 Fiorito has taught courses in beginning design and technique at the Smithsonian Institution.

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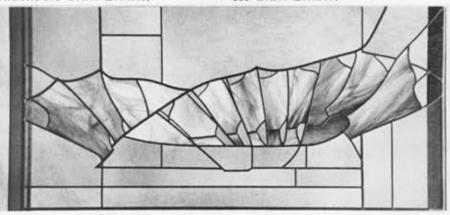
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## GLASS EAST GLASS EAST GLASS EAST GLASS

One of Hyams' commissions, a stained glass wall for the Hallmark building in Houston, Texas, was documented in a film on stained glass made by Yehuda Yaniv. She has also been featured in several magazine articles, including Glass Magazine, March 1976. Hyams is also a correspondent for Glass Studio.

Jon says of his glass: "There is a value to silence in art. My work expresses the implication of silence. In my art there is a repetition of forms that are not really there, piercing the veil of silence. I try to create art that reflects silence."

Jon is also a contributing editor for Glass Studio.



"Sleep" by Harriet Hyams, 45" x 221/2".

Jon Meyer is a glass artist from Honeoye Falls, New York who has been involved with hot glass for some ten years. In the early 70s Meyer conceived, initiated and instructed Steuben's glassblowing apprentice program. And while directing the apprentice program, he also managed Steuben's pressing, sagging and casting processes. Prior to that, he studied at Orrefors Glass School in Sweden.

After working at Steuben, he then built his own 1,000 square-foot studio with his wife, Deb Meuer; designing, building and installing all the needed studio equipment. More recently, Meyer was head of the Glass Department at the School for American Craftsmen at Rochester Institute of Technology. While there, he designed and built hot glass and glass engraving studios as well as teaching. Within the last year Meyer has become a consulting associate to the vice president for Academic Affairs at R.I.T., which involves considerable travel.

Jon and Deb Meyer collaborate with their glasswork (see photo) as well as working separately. Deb, who has worked with glass for seven years, does primarily cold work such as engraving, cutting and sand-blasting.

Charmaine Caire from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, studied glass at the Tyler School of Art which included studying in Rome, Italy, and an apprenticeship in abstract glass sculpture with Gianni Toso at Venini Art Glass in Murano, Venice. She has also done apprenticeships with Ray King Studios, and John Beirs Glass Studios.

Caire says of her medium: "Glass has the qualities of both fragility and strength. Through several years of experimenting, I have found it to be a unique substance. It possesses inherent laws that must be understood because of its unforgiving nature." Her sculpture, "Untitled For Now," (see photo), demonstrates that geometric structure, when applied to a sheet of glass, actually strengthens it.

This sculpture is based on the proportions of a Cantenary Arch. "Structural integrity is achieved by the dramatic arching of the glass in combination with the textural ribbing," explains Caire. "I have been working with a modular format because stacking best exhibits the internal strength of the piece. Each module must be stress-free and identicle to the others."

Stephen Feller and Jay Fellerman,

owners of *Bulls Bridge Glassworks*, Route 7, Kent, Connecticut, established their studio in 1973 in a converted, turn-of-the-century barn in the northwestern part of the state. The studio also includes a spacious gallery facility.

Their work includes blowing iridescent vases, table lamps and shades with hot-tooled decorations. They also gather multilayered, thick, transparent paperweight vases; experiment and produce sand castings in glass; and etching and sandblasting on blown vase forms or flat plate glass. Recently, Feller has been casting flat, free forms on a rolling mill for sheet glass, and experimenting more with decorating the gather on the blowpipe before it's rolled out.

Feller notes that their glasswork is "of high quality and one-of-akind. (See Photo.)

Michael Pavlik, a glass artist from Delhi, New York, was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1941. He studied graphics, painting, design and glass at the Arts and Crafts College in Prague. In 1965 he escaped from Czechoslovakia and moved to the United States, and from 1967 to 1973 he worked in New York City as a Fine Arts Painter.

Gradually, Pavlik's original interest in glass art was revived, and he decided to study glassblowing at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, and later at the Archie Bray Foundation. For the past five years, Pavlik has been working and teaching as an artist-in-residence at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.

Pavlik's glass can be found in several collections including the Corning Museum, Carnegie-Mellon Museum of Art and the Whitney Collection in New York. His work has also been shown at numerous galleries including Habatat Galleries and the Contemporary Art Glass Gallery. His pieces are multilayered, up to 10 layers, weigh about 20 pounds, and are quite thick. (See photo.)

Nancy Freeman is a glassblower from Olivebridge, New York whose work has been included in the vicepresidential permanent collection of

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