

Artist Statement – Janice Peacock

Before I started working in glass, I worked in several other media. Using these other materials I constantly attempted, and failed, to simulate the look and feel of glass – its transparency, depth and luminosity. Glass, shaped by fire, can create beautiful works of art, but even during the process of creation, the fire and glowing glass themselves are beautiful. I've been a self-proclaimed pyromaniac since the first time I burnt a marshmallow in a campfire. For me, fire certainly has many of the same qualities as glass: Glowing, reflective, mysterious.

As a flameworker, I sculpt glass using a torch and other tools. I create small sculptures, many of them beads. Much of my recent work is largely focused on the creation of items which look ancient - African masks used in traditional ceremonies, tiny vessels unearthed from the sea, and treasures gathered by pirates from centuries ago. Growing up in Southern California, with its miles of tract housing and mega-malls, I longed for history, some sense of the past which had been obliterated. My artwork is an attempt to reconnect with historical objects and make them part of my life and the lives of others; a part which is largely missing in the American culture.

My work is about what has been lost, and what can be found. I love the idea of the hunt, the small gleaming shell found in the sand, a gold coin among the brass ones, the lost earring recovered from between the sofa cushions, the un-loved treasures at the side of the road. I am inspired by what can be found through these treasures, and the revelations that they bring: Wonder, reflection, connection to the past, to people and to our lost heritage.