

Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award



Dolly Ahles

Dolly Ahles has been creating lampworked glass beads, buttons, and small vessels since 1997. Showing a strong interest in floral patterns and the delicate forms of nature, Dolly is quickly becoming known for her three-dimensional flowers that grace the surface of her work.

After graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 1980 with an Associates Degree in Visual Communication, Dolly moved to Arizona. During the early beginnings of desktop publishing, she reentered school to learn computer art. Her path has led her to magazine publishing, where she remains as the Director of Art for a Phoenix-based publishing company.

Dolly has always enjoyed being involved in art, and painting in watercolors was her favorite medium prior to finding lampworking. Once she discovered her love of glass art, she devoted every minute of her spare time to honing her lampworking skills to find a style of her own. A member of the Arizona Society of Glass Beadmakers, Dolly held the position of Southwest Regional Director for the International Society of Glass Beadmakers for three years.

Dolly currently works in her home studio to create several lines of bead, button, and small vessel styles, including her *Summer*

Fields and *Watercolor Floral* series. The *Summer Fields* series has beautiful three-dimensional flowers on a hand-painted, windswept garden background. Her *Watercolor Floral* series combines her love of watercolor and glass in an encasement of floral, watercolor-like patterns.

Dolly has been teaching lampworking at the Mesa Arts Center in Mesa, Arizona, since 2002. She enjoys the interaction with other artists and finds her students' desire for learning to be contagious.

Visit www.flamedancerbeads.com to view more of Dolly's art and to purchase her latest watercolor floral bead tutorial on DVD.

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How many artists will be featured?

The award is given to twelve lampworking artists a year, one of whom will become the Glasscraft Emerging Artist.