

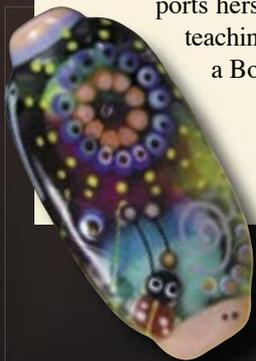
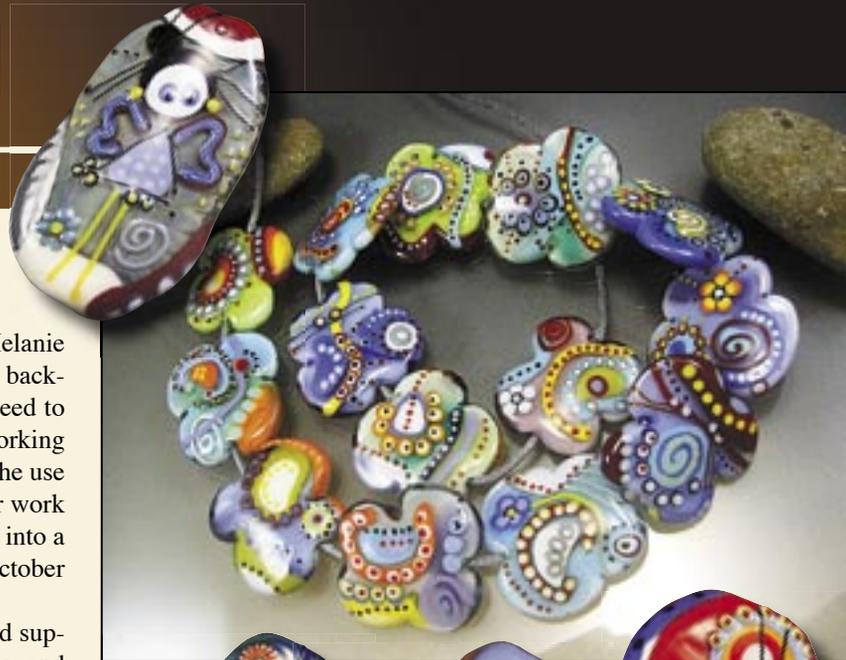
Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award

Melanie Moertel

Born in 1976 in a small town in Erlangen, Germany, Melanie Moertel grew up as a single child with an artistic family background. She soon discovered her love of glass and her need to be creative. After finishing school in 1996 she started working as a graphic designer and learned all of the basics about the use of colors, design elements, and marketing. The computer work was not fulfilling enough, though, and she decided to go into a new direction and started making lampworked beads in October 2003.

Today Melanie works as a full-time beadmaker and supports herself by selling her beads, mostly online, and teaching in glass schools and studios worldwide. She works on a Bobcat torch and creates mainly with 104 COE glass.

Visit www.melaniemoertel.com to view more of Melanie's glass art.



Jeremiah (JD) Maplesden

Jeremiah (JD) Maplesden began his career in 2001 and has been a self-employed artist since 2002. He has worked in beads, marbles, and solid shaping that pushed the boundaries of solid color, fume work, sandblasting, sand carving, electroforming, and lapping. JD took Glass Alchemy's Color Certification Class in 2005 and the Color Theory and Development Class at Eugene Glass School. His training has included work with many artists including Bryan Doshier, Cesare Toffolo, Chris Roesinger, Gianni Toso, Marbleslinger, Scott Deppe, Andrew Morris, and Hops. JD has served as a teaching assistant at Reveres School to Chris Roesinger in 2007 in advanced pendants and marble designs and to Robert Mickelsen in 2008 in Graal and sandblasting.

This dedicated artist continues to work in Spokane, Washington, pushing his art to new heights. JD's work can be found in collections in Heart's Beads in Arcata, California; The Bead Addict's Attic in Spokane, Washington; Bead It in Post Falls, Idaho; and Glass Alchemy in Portland, Oregon.

Visit www.glassartists.org/jdmaplesden to view more of JD's glass art.



Photograph by
Jessica LaPrade

Jesse James

Jesse James, a talented artist who hails from Le Sueur, Minnesota, began his love for glass in 2005 while watching his brother-in-law Eric Ross create. He learned from Eric how to make small mushroom marbles, and in the fall of 2007 purchased his first torch. Jesse, addicted to the flame, quit his day job to focus on glass. He spent all of his spare time seeking anything that could help him cultivate his own unique artistic designs. Soon he was traveling the Midwest with Eric, meeting many talented and inspiring artists. This time on the road helped Jesse grow and become more confident in his newly found flourishing work. He began focusing on creating wearable glass art.

Jesse's electroformed wrapped pendants are one-of-a-kind, so the size and shape changes from piece to piece. Each one begins with a glass marble. Then in varied gauges of copper and silver wire, Jesse wraps crystals and minerals around the glass structure. To accent some of his pieces, he uses glowing solar cells in shades of blue and green, as well as magnetized pressure cups that house gemstones such as rubies and sapphires. When the jewelry reaches the electroforming stage, it can be customized to include names, initials, or symbols on the backside for a personal touch. As the final step, Jesse paints each of the pieces to create an delicate antique finish.

Visit www.jessejamesglass.com to view more of Jesse's glass art.

Photography by
James Knutson for
bombmediausa.com

Glasscraft

What is the Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award?

The Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award will be awarded to up-and-comingameworking artists who have demonstrated outstanding skill and who have contributed to the lampworking community through technical and artistic innovation.

How many artists will be featured?

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

How can I qualify for this award?

Please join us by participating in the Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award. Just send your artist profile (100 to 125 words), high-resolution digital photos of your work, contact information, and the photographer's name on CD to:

Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award
c/o The Flow
PO Box 69
Westport, KY 40077