

# ✧ Glasscraft Emerging Artist Award ✧

## ✧ Margaret Zinser



When I began as a glass artist in 2001, I was working as a lab scientist, preparing to start work for my masters degree in entomology. I loved the technical challenge of working with a molten medium; it appealed to my scientific background. At the time I used glass as a creative outlet from my exacting lab work. The fact that lampworked glass imposes few limits on shape, texture, and color developed my creative inclinations. Ultimately, that's what pushed me to pursue beadmaking full-time after I finished my master's in 2004. Working with glass keeps me in intellectual balance and nourishes me creatively, while the technique, chemistry, and physics of working with glass continue to sustain my scientific, analytical mind.

Many of my earlier bead series are studies in the color and texture of objects from the natural world. More recently my inspiration stems from an urge to translate particular intellectual challenges, which is apparent in my "Maze" series of beads. While this series varies dramatically in design, each bead is a fully solvable maze. I like the idea that the wearer of one of my mazes can engage in solving the puzzle I've created.

My "Beetle" series took some time to evolve. Through college and grad school, I did work in the biological illustration of insects. I wanted to create a series that drew inspiration from my illustrations but sculpturally resembled Egyptian scarab medallions. My beetles are stylized and deliberately not representative of specific species, thus allowing me to put aside the meticulous representation necessary for biological illustration.

My work has been featured in *The Flow*, *Bead & Button*, *Step By Step Beads*, *Bead Unique*, and in galleries in the U.S., Canada, and Japan. I teach group classes in studios nationwide and private classes in my studio in Tucson, Arizona. My inspiration and motivation come from many fellow artists in this close community of lampworkers and other glass artists. I am deeply grateful to be part of this incredible family.

I'm now twenty-nine, and I know that this is only my beginning. Seeing myself as still—pardon the bug reference—in pupation, I look forward to continual creative transformation and growth.

To learn more about Margaret's work, please visit her website at [www.mzglass.com](http://www.mzglass.com).



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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.