

## Dear Readers,

Summer is with us once again, when “green is king,” vacations let us spend more time with family and friends, and the draw of outdoor activities pulls us out into the sunlight. But there’s another reason I look forward to summer each year—the return of the Marbles and Paperweights issue of *The Flow*.

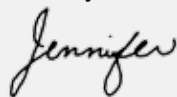
This annual visit to the world of perfectly round glass art has an amazing appeal. As marble artist, John Bridges, reminds us: “It’s easy to be overwhelmed by the rush-rush and fact overload of everyday life. The act of marble gazing is uniquely qualified to offer that healing service. Between the inherent dreaminess of ethereal forms suspended in solid glass and the primordial shape of the sphere, not to mention easy mobility and access, they are nothing less than a utilitarian magical tool.”

When we began this adventure of publishing a magazine for flameworkers, we had a desire to bring together the many glass artists who put so much effort into teaching glass to do new things in the flame. While we are doing that, however, the glass is teaching us as well. Through that process, we have become a tight-knit group of artists who are not afraid to pass along what we discover and support each other in our efforts. That feeling of camaraderie and zeal for creating in glass is reflected in the description on each cover of *The Flow*— that it’s “a glass journal for the flameworking *community*.”

This issue is a wonderful example of how that community comes together to highlight flameworkers who are promoting each other while making a difference throughout the world. Events like the Marble Weekend at Wheaton and the Tucson Flame Off help to grow a passionate sense of community while allowing established artists and those just getting started to come together to share their techniques and themselves. Many flameworkers will also be participating in the upcoming “World’s Biggest Marble Hunt,” when they will be hiding these little treasures for others to find while encouraging artists to make this a never-ending tradition.

With each issue, some of the finest glass artists share their techniques through in-depth, step-by-step tutorials, thus helping our community to thrive. If you are interested in sharing your own work, be sure to visit our website for guidelines on submitting articles for consideration.

As always . . . Keep your light shining and your torches lit!



Jennifer Menzies  
Editor



*Marble by Freddy Faerron.  
Photo by Ben Ramsey.*



### Deadlines for Editorial Submission

<b>Winter 2016</b>	<b>12th Annual Women in Glass</b>
Submission Deadline	September 1, 2016

<b>Spring 2017</b>	<b>Nature</b>
Submission Deadline	December 1, 2016

If you are interested in becoming a contributing artist for *The Flow*, visit [www.theflowmagazine.com](http://www.theflowmagazine.com) for a link to themes of upcoming issues, author guidelines, and submission forms.

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*The Flow* urges its readers to proceed cautiously in  
respect to technical information or  
step-by-step articles. Always take proper  
safety precautions when working with glass.