

Dear Readers,

The issue where we explored the fascinating world of marbles was such a favorite of mine the first time around, I just had to work it into the schedule again! Marbles can be captivating and quite addictive once you conquer the sometimes illusive round shape.

If you make more than a few marbles, you'll quickly find out how crucial a good cold seal can be. It seems inevitable that you will spend some time chasing a marble around the floor when the punty is bumped. When the crud just won't wipe off, cold working a flat spot can transform your piece that is encrusted with "floor crud" into a beautiful paperweight.

Contemporary marbles and paperweights are collected to this day and have such a fascinating history. Our children and their friends have a great time playing classic marble games and making up their own. The part they enjoy the most, though, is selecting their favorite marbles to play with. Our only rule is no boro marbles—only softies. Playing for "keepsies" also makes the game way more exciting! If you'd like to check out a few classic marble games, you can go to [www.landofmarbles.com](http://www.landofmarbles.com), where you will find plenty of information about playing with as well as collecting marbles. Antique marble toys, mazes, and runs can be downright habit forming if you love old glass memorabilia.

If you're in the market to sell some of your marble art, there are a few things to keep in mind when catering to the collector. Visible flaws such as bubbles (unless intentional), striations, and scratches can adversely affect the value. When it comes to marbles, however, complete roundness is the most important aspect to serious collectors. With contemporary marbles and paperweights, an identifying mark and date are also imperative.

Whether you are making paperweights or spheres, you are sure to find inspiration in this issue! There are nine great tutorials to guide you as you pursue that perfect marble, with information for everything from creating an air trap implosion marble, decorating the back sides, and cold working implosion cubes to creating tiny universes in glass and making sure that your marble runs are operating at their optimal best. All in all, I'd say the adventures in this issue will keep you creating for quite a while.

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

Jennifer Menzies  
Editor



Marbles by John Kobuki

### Upcoming Deadlines for Submission

Winter 2011 Submission Deadline	Seventh Annual Women in Glass September 1, 2011
Spring 2012 Submission Deadline	The Forms of Function December 1, 2011

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