

Laurel Marie Hagner—Capturing the Power of Nature in Woven Glass

Text and Photo of Laurel Marie Hagner
by The Staff of Glassometry Studios

Laurel Marie Hagner, owner and artist behind Glassometry Studios, draws on her considerable experience as both student and teacher to develop her intriguing glass designs. She received her BFA cum laude from Northern Kentucky University in 2000 and has studied at Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina; Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle, Washington; and Centro Studio Vetro, in Venice, Italy. Laurel has also shared her experience with other artists as teacher for glass and metal sculpture classes at the Pratt Fine Arts Center, The Pacific Northwest College of Art, Brookfield Craft Center, The Art Academy of Cincinnati, Glass Axis, and Louisville Glassworks, and has served as Chair of the Glass Program at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon.

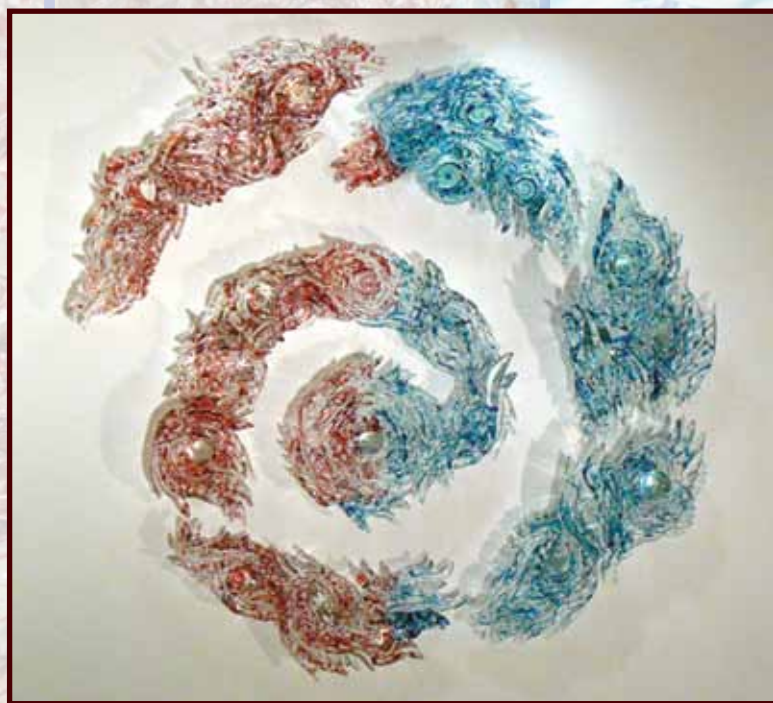


Since 2000, Laurel has been working as a mixed media sculptor and glass artist. Her mission as an artist is to continuously evolve not only as a craftsperson but also as one who is sharing ideas and opportunities of expression with the glass community. In the midst of jobs, new artwork, and classes, she continues to pursue creating public art and commissions while offering new classes regularly at the studio.

Discovering Architectural Glass Art

Between 2003 and 2005, Laurel was the head of the Special Projects Department at Savoy Studios in Portland, Oregon, where she honed her skills in large-scale architectural glass production. She has completed numerous private and public commissions throughout the United States and around the world for clients that include Nikon, the Peppermill Casino, the Seattle Zoo, Kiewit Bridge and Marine, Smart Transit, and many others.

Finally, after over a decade of creating work for clients that was not always personal to her, Laurel was given the opportunity to create *Woven Essence* as a commission. This was a chance to explore her strong interest in melding her sculpting skills and love of hot glass into an expression of her passion for the power found in nature and how natural patterns have become symbols and recognized spiritual forms. The piece illustrates the unspoken balance between hot and cold, water and fire, and illustrates the form's tug toward expansion and free-form simply by its spiraling nature.



The Heart of Woven Essence

Woven Essence was recently installed in Washington, D.C., at Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge, Rice, LLP. The five-foot-by-five-foot piece started as a large spiraling design of undulating forms. Laurel broke the drawing down into approximately twenty-five pieces. Each section was then transferred to its own template drawing, in reverse view, so she could build them correctly while working on a blow pipe. The colors were selected, then each piece was built entirely out of hot glass. She began with a hot-formed base on a blow pipe, already designed to hang in the steel hangers created for each piece. Her assistants proceeded to gather glass, pick up color, and marver the glass into the large, hot cone bits they would present. Laurel then carefully built the sculpted form bit by bit—cutting, sculpting, wrapping, torching, and shaping.

The finishing touches included heating the entire form and shaping the overall curving motion of each piece. After it was annealed, the back of each piece was cut and polished for its steel hardware. The entire sculpture was mocked up, piece overlapping piece, first on the floor for each hanger to be made at the correct depth. This also determined the particular installation order that would enable the glass pieces to overlap. Before shipping, the entire piece was mocked up on a temp wall in the studio to fine-tune the installation template.

Woven Essence defines Laurel Marie Hagner's signature technique of woven glass. She is presently developing an entirely new body of work using many of these sculpting techniques and looks forward to sharing it with a loving art glass community.

Visit www.glassometry.com to view more of Laurel Marie Hagner's glass art and to learn more about the artist.

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