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Experimental and Exploratory Thesis in Creative Glass Blowing as Art Media

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EXPERIMENTAL AND EXPLORATORY
THESIS IN CREATIVE GLASS BLOWING
AS ART MEDIA

A Thesis
Presented To
the Graduate Faculty
Central Washington State College

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Art

by
Stan Flashman
November, 1971

APPROVED FOR THE GRADUATE FACULTY

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EXPERIMENTAL AND EXPLORATORY
THESIS IN CREATIVE GLASS GLOWING
AS ART MEDIA

by

Stanley S. Flashman

November, 1971

This paper along with a one man show of my work in the Fine Art Gallery is a representation of hand blown glass as an art media. The development of technical skill along with more free flowing form and spontaneous way of working was the ultimate aim of this study.

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EXPERIMENTAL AND EXPLORATORY
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The approach intended in this study can be clearly broken down into two phases of work. The first phase covers the traditional period of glass up to the early sixties. Work of this period is involved with the basic utilitarian forms. In this way, glass deals with a hollow shape as in the form of a vessel. Utilizing available technical information and demonstration I have created my own interpretation of the traditional aspects of glass. The control of the fixed variable¹ along with more free-flowing form in most cases results in a more spontaneous way of working. What is meant by this is the technical skill can readily be seen as the point of departure. From here the basic shape can be transformed into a flowing expression; not one in which the craftsmanship is the ultimate aim.² The glass becomes more than a beautiful object. It takes on the feeling of life instead of just a lifeless form.

The second phase is concerned with using chemicals on and/or in the glass to make it more than a simple functional statement: These chemical color techniques take the emphasis away from form and make possible a stronger visual expression. Working with the properties of glass

one can mold it into a visual optical illusion whose qualities belong only to glass. Different combinations of chemicals were used; lusters, silver nitrate, staneous chlorides (fuming), cane (millefiori), and different glass, such as soda, Belinko, Tiffin crystal, and flint. Combining these various glasses and techniques allows the artist to make a piece that is: transparent, translucent, opaque, iridescent and/or lustered.

Conclusion

My only interest in understanding traditional glass forms and obtaining technical skill is for the skill to become so automatic that I can forget about it and concentrate on just the creative aspect of my art.

FOOTNOTES

1. Fixed variable, basic vessel shape.
2. Refers to pieces number 2, 3, 13, 14, 20, 22.

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