

Gloss NY Features Abby Modell

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GLOSSNY

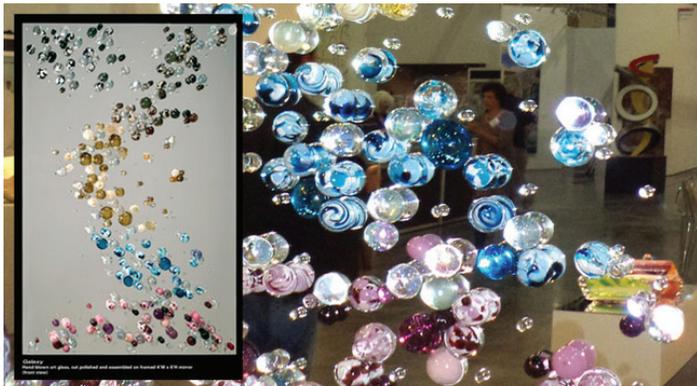
While covering the Architectural Digest Home Design Show last month, we were stunned when we came across Abby Modell's collection of glasswork that literally looked like it was part of a galaxy that dispersed an infinite unraveling of magnificent colors. As with most completed pieces, what fascinated us most was the road the maker took to arrive at their destination. We caught up with Abby in between projects and talked to her about her philosophy, how glasswork fits into modern design, and where her visions are taking her next.



Ice Rainbow by Abby Modell

Can you tell us a bit about creating "harmonious interaction between color and glass"?

As the creative process flows in the studio, I carefully merge color and pattern within the design. All components must work with the constant turning of the glass. The process causes a interaction between the vision I am creating and the end result I am achieving.



Galaxy by Abby Modell

Glass blowing has been around for centuries – do you feel a connection with the tradition?

Classic glassblowing techniques are a primary starting point. I constantly strive to break traditional boundaries of glassmaking and reinterpret new methods into the contemporary design world. This is seen in my "Cane Sculpture." I have taken the classic Venetian cane concept and modernized it to reflect my new perspective by enlarging each cane and floating it within a solid cylinder of glass. This technique is challenging, and reflects just one aspect of my vision of reinterpreting traditional methods into the modern world.

How do you see your pieces fitting into places with limited space?

My sculptural "mirror-as-canvas" allows a mixed vision of artistic creation. The mirror aspect of the piece visually makes the room look larger as this infinity effect intrigues the eye. The glass orbs floating on mirror fascinate the viewer.

Do you sketch out your ideas or freestyle and experiment?

Each concept starts with a sketch of ideas. I am flexible and open minded as each journey of glass blowing begins. There is an experimenting phase in the studio as each new work idea is formed. Traditional methods and new ideas merge within the work and play off each other as a new design progresses. This journey of creating is fun and fascinating every time I approach a new concept.

What's it like creating shapes that, before you created them, did not exist?

The core of my work starts with the "known" and journeys into new realms. Each time I achieve a new shape it is exciting and sparks new ideas to push the boundaries of new discoveries. I am always learning in the glass studio.



Milky Way by Abby Modell

BONUS QUESTION: Do you find yourself obsessing over glassware when you go out to eat or can you control yourself?

I am always looking for inspiration for new designs. These inspirations are everywhere. A stem of a glass, a table votive or even a chandelier often inspire thoughts of new design possibilities. I am always asking "how did they make that?" With each new day, I am forever searching for my next inspiration.