

ArtStory

Pursuing quality of life.

Rollin Karg

Karg Art Glass

Genre:

Glass Art

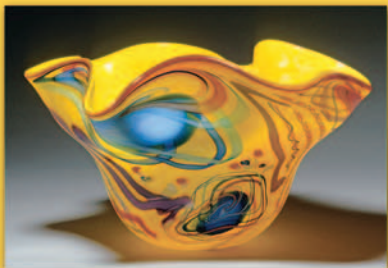
Notable Exhibits:

Karg Art Gallery

Shown in approximately 390
galleries nationwide and
10 overseas

*"I'm on fire and have to get
it out."*

—Rollin Karg



Not many artists can express themselves with a lava-like material heated to 2,150 degrees Fahrenheit. But Rollin Karg can't get enough.

His fire for glass art was ignited on a trip to the Corning Museum where he watched glass blowers at work. He was left speechless and hungry to adopt the art as his own. Upon returning to Kansas, he eagerly jumped at the invitation to take the last spot in a glass blowing class at Emporia State University.

"I would think about it. Dream about it. I became obsessed," Karg recalls.

More than twenty years later, that burn to create has not yet been cooled. His obsession has led to the creation of thousands of pieces of beautifully blown glass — mosaics of colors, shapes and movement. His work in Wichita is primarily seen at his studio, Karg Art Glass.

His passion for the art stems from a motivation for instant gratification. "I see the end product in minutes, as opposed to days spent waiting for paint to dry or clay to cure. It sparks a freely creative experience that also brings great inner peace."

At 60 years old, the physical and mental requirements of glass blowing provide a welcome challenge for him. But by far, his biggest challenge is balance. "I can create the pieces faster than I can produce them. Great detail goes into each piece. The need to create must be tempered by the patience to complete the piece at hand."

Karg discusses glass art like a kid talking about his brand new bike. "Expressing myself is most important. I'm on fire and I have to get it out. People are creative in many ways - it's just inside, waiting to surface. People lived in



caves and drew on walls. Expression is a basic human need."

While Karg has made glass art his life's career and livelihood, he would still do it, even if he couldn't make a living from it. True to his claim, he anonymously turns his art loose on the world. "I've placed them on roadways, in parks, in waterways, at gas stations — even dropped them in the ocean. It warms my soul to know that some day, someone will find them. It will eventually end up with someone who really cares about it, and it will warm their soul to see it."



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