

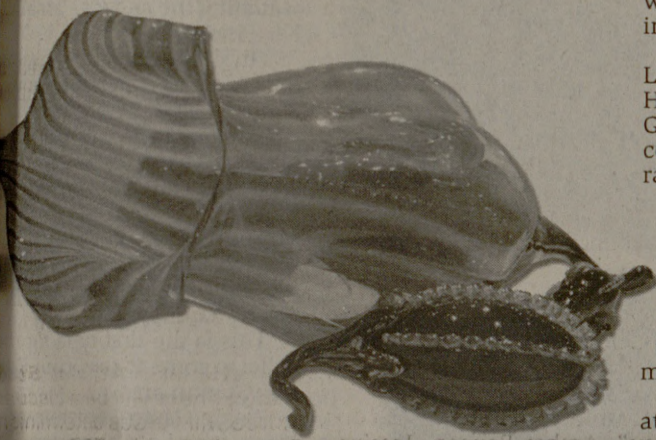
Blowing Glass

Gallery showcases fragile art form with exhibit



Story by Brian Fleming

Photos by Bradley Atchison



At the temperature of 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, the process of making glass begins. Depending on the technique used, glass can eventually take shape to form anything from a window to a light bulb to a work of art similar to like those on display at the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries this month.

Cathy Hastedt, curator for the galleries, said an exhibit such as this one is exciting for them to have.

"We like to try to explore all kinds of art work," Hastedt said. "This is the first time we have done a glass exhibit, and since it is something we have never explored before, we are very excited about it."

Hastedt said there are many types of glass and glass-making techniques.

"There is blown glass, cased glass, marbles and beads, to name a few," Hastedt said.

"There are many examples of these on display here."

Hastedt said one example of glass blowing on display is an untitled piece by artist John Leighton.

"This work shows how, once the glass is melted, you can pull and twist it," Hastedt said.

"It is one of my favorites because of the organic fluidity of the form, and that they are whimsical."

Hastedt said that through these works, much can be learned about the individual artists, as well.

"One of the artists on display is Lavonne Scott, who is actually a potter," Hastedt said. "She does her work, such as Glass Vessels [which is part of the exhibit], in ceramic first. Then she makes a plaster mold of her original ceramic objects and pours glass through the plaster mold."

From then on, she can do a number of things to add to the design.

Hastedt said in conjunction with the exhibit, some artists will take part in sharing their craft with anyone interested in the making of the pieces.

"On Oct. 14 in the Rudder Courtyard, we will have three local artists demonstrating the process of marble and bead making," Hastedt said.

Matt Potter, who sculpts glass as a hobby and is an accelerator technician at the Alvin Audecke building, is taking part in

the events with his wife, Christine, a staff assistant at the Texas A&M Department of Human Anatomy.

Potter said they will be working with hot, molten glass to make marbles and beads much like those being shown in the exhibit.

"Someone who is interested in this really needs to come and watch us to really understand what we do," Potter said. "Also, if someone actually wanted to do this on their own, by coming out and watching us they could really get a better understanding [of marble making], as well."

Potter said one of the most interesting aspects of glass making is that so much can be done with it.

"Once it is melted, what you do with it is only limited to your imagination," Potter said.

Christine Potter said what they do are only two of the limitless styles in the making of glass.

Hastedt said people's reactions to the exhibit have been positive.

"From everyone who comes and sees it, we typically get the 'ooo-ahh' reaction," Hastedt said. "Mostly, it has just been a wonder at how these artists created these things."

Kyle Closner, a junior information operating systems major, said he likes the exhibit because

there is a large conglomeration of different colors.

"With this exhibit, you look at the works and then put them all together," Closner said. "Overall, you definitely feel overwhelmed."

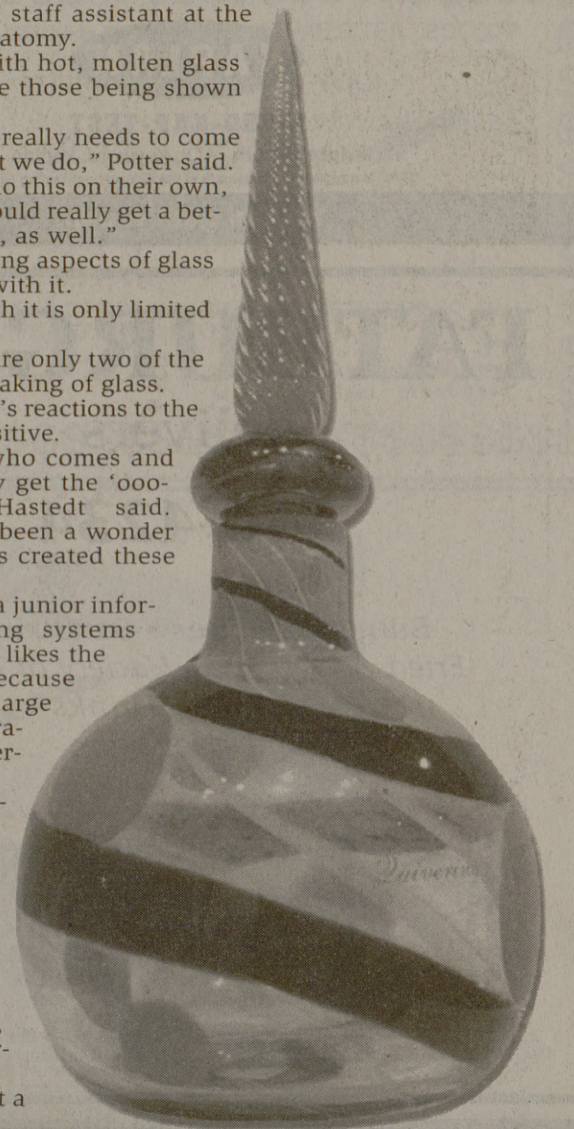
Closner said that when looking at artist Christine Barney's work, *Emerald Balance*, he sees more than what originally appears.

"You look down, and it is almost like you see a guy with an open mouth, a droopy nose, two eyes and he is wearing a hat," Closner said.

"You see it, and it not only is art but a lot of fun."

"Once it is melted, what you do with it is only limited by your imagination."

— Matt Potter
Glass sculptor



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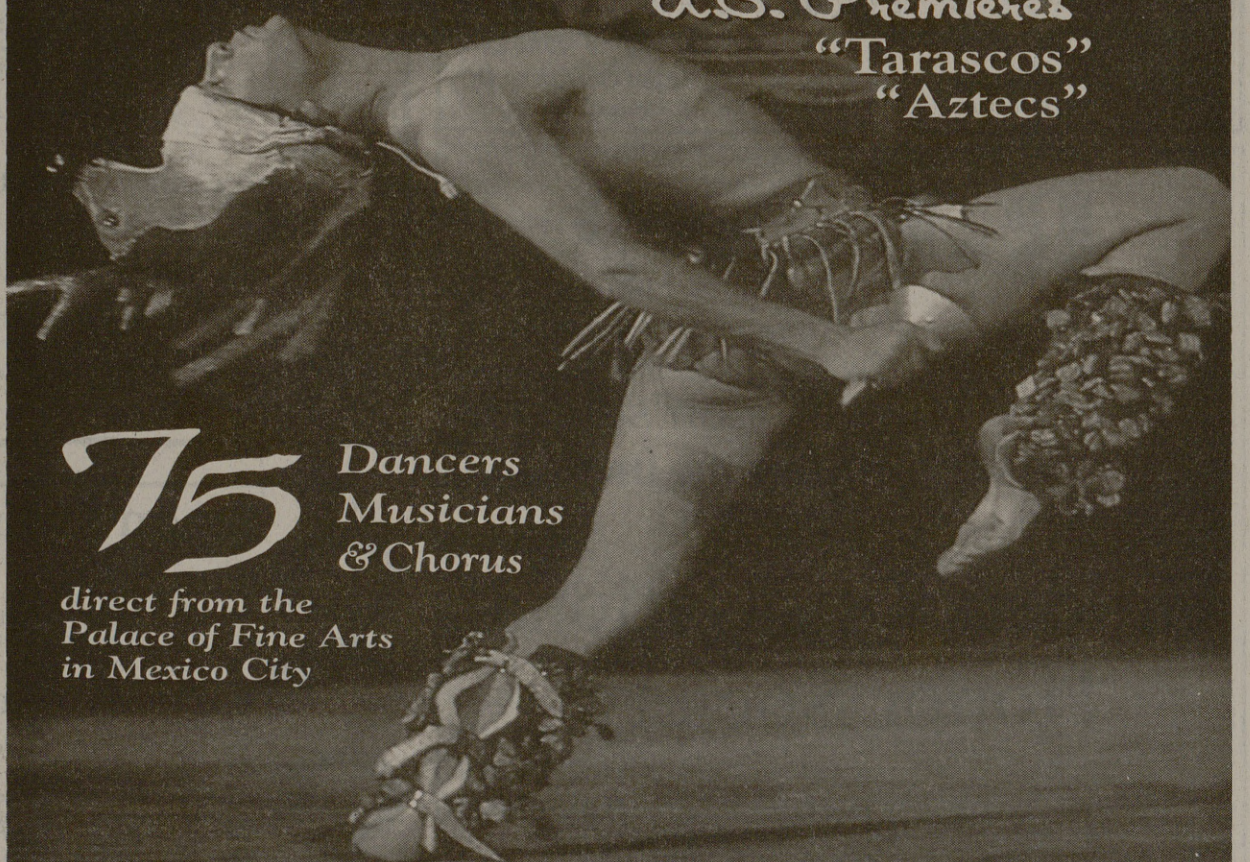
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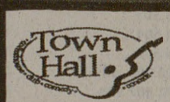
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