

In all its forms, glass achieves a special effect – it is fascinating as a precious vessel, as a colorful surface, or an artistic object created with great skill. The mystical interplay of color and light, transparency and density casts its spell repeatedly over viewers and users alike. It creates a link between inside and outside, keeps cold out and lets light in. Glass ties together and breaks light; the power of color and of the absence of color plays with the wide variety of the facets. This strange mix of sand and soda fascinates us with all its contrasts and the sheer inexhaustible wealth of design possibilities open to it.

#### **Broken crockery brings you luck**

People are also fascinated by the stories glass can tell. Individual shards that once belonged to a whole, and that each alone have undergone a process through time that lends them their individual forms, angles, and refractions, are once more united to become a piece for enthusiasts and tell new stories. The British artist Gina Cowen discovered in herself a passion for glass that was washed ashore on the beach. "I have specialized in jewelry from sea-glass because of the beauty in these simple, tide-tossed luminous pebbles of color," explains the designer, who looks for and finds her material on beaches all over the world. "Each piece has a unique shape that refracts light in a subtly different way, bringing the jewelry a noticeable inner luminosity." Another artist working with treasures found on the beach is German jewelry designer Brigitte Bezold, who turns bottle-necks that have been polished by water and sand into unconventional

jewelry. These jewelry pieces actually seem to hold the sweet secrets of the depths within themselves.

#### **Tradition and modernity**

The glassblowing artist Kerstin Müllerperth, who comes from a family with a long tradition of old-fashioned artisanship, works completely differently. She shapes the material almost without using tools. By constant pulling, pushing, blowing and breathing in before the glass-blowing lamp, she creates wonderfully beautiful drinking cups, glasses, vases, containers and other objects appealing in their shimmering transparency and luminosity. Kerstin Müllerperth bridges the gap between historic forms such as the "façon de Venise" and modern impressions, between playing with the material and strict adherence to tradition. Her glasses and vases with gold and silver inlays show a bewitching imagination with regard to form and the great artisan skills handed

#### **Living glass**

The Hamburg-based jewelry designer Henriette Schumacher was taken with Italian forms and with the island of Murano, known for its glass. A trained gemologist, Schumacher brings great imagination, creativity and professional competence to polishing glass and integrating it into her jewelry design. She creates bracelets, necklaces, and earrings by harmoniously stringing together different glass beads. Each individual sphere is worked by hand in Murano, which she does uniquely and individually. Fine gold envelopes the colorless glass center, and to complete the piece, a colorful glass layer is wrapped around the gold. Thus the work of art is not only each jewelry piece by this designer, but each individual jewelry bead in and of itself.



down in the family tradition. Before she could practice her current artistic profession, the designer, who is married to the jewelry designer Johann Müllerperth, first had to accept a detour through professional courses as a laboratory glass technician, because there has been no professional education offered in Germany in the art of glass-blowing for over 20 years.



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- 1\_ Rings by the British designer Gina Cowen shimmer in sea colors
- 2\_ This mouth-blown vase with gold and silver inlays, by Kerstin Müllerperth, seems like a treasure from the "Arabian Nights"
- 3\_ Henriette Schumacher's beads are made individually by hand from Italian Murano glass
- 4\_ Jewelry designer Brigitte Bezold uses bottle-necks polished by sand and water and works them into unusual rings
- 5\_ Sweet as sugar: the objects "Planets" by the Swedish designer Lena Bergström look like candies. These vessels, made for Orrefors, are limited editions: each one is one of a kind
- 6\_ Alongside René Lalique, August Daum was one of the most significant representatives of art nouveau in the art of glass. The ornamental play with light and surface is symbolic of the era