

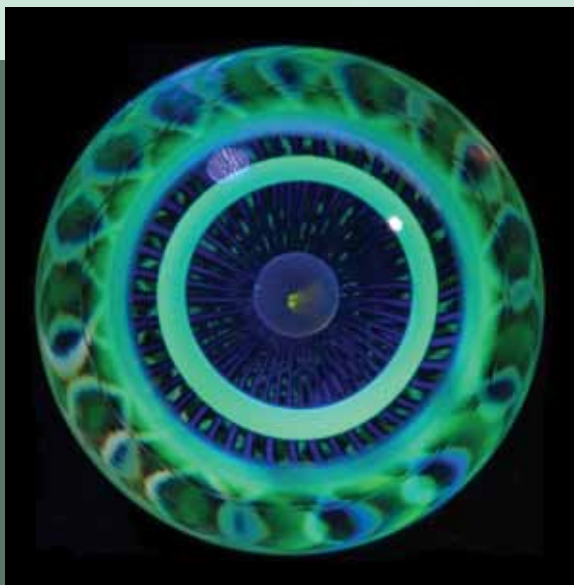
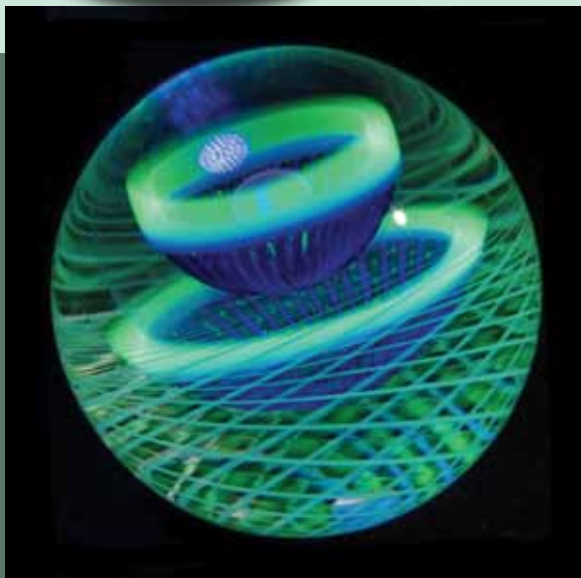
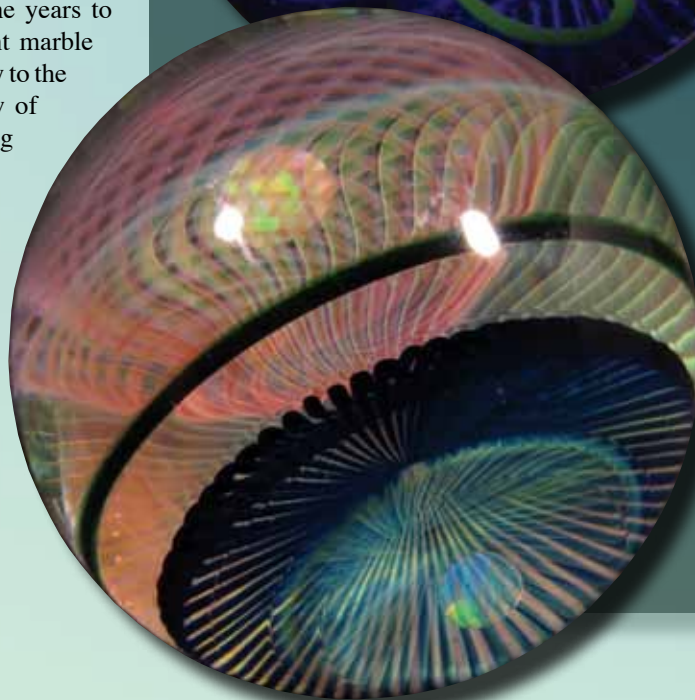
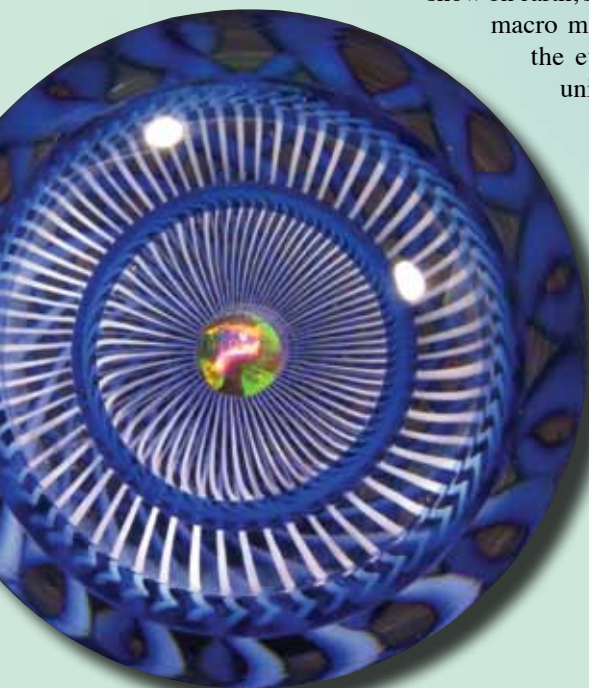
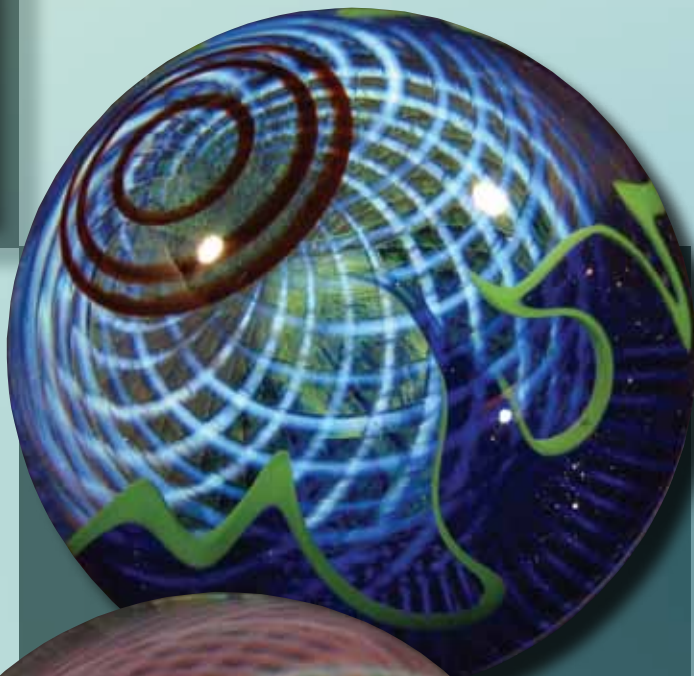
# John Bridges

International Marble Ambassador

by Sid Black

John Bridges, aka Black Fire, is a glass artist who has specialized in art marbles to express and advance his preoccupation with creating fine micro detail in solid form. He is essentially self-taught and has been steadily refining his method and voice since 1999 working solo in his studio in the glass mecca of Eugene, Oregon.

John has been a staple presence at the contemporary marble shows, and this year he will be the featured artist at the Wheaton Village Marble Weekend in New Jersey, which has risen over the years to become indisputably the most important marble show on earth, second only to the macro marble show of the ever-circling universe.

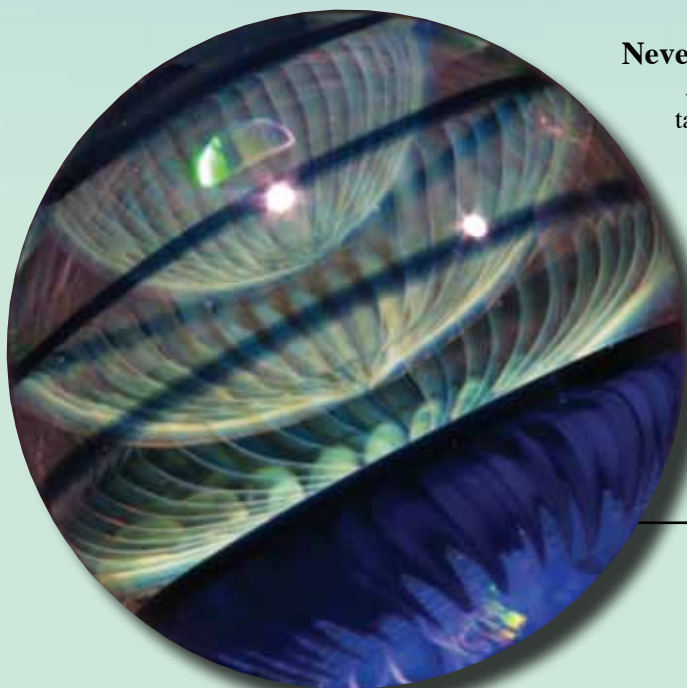
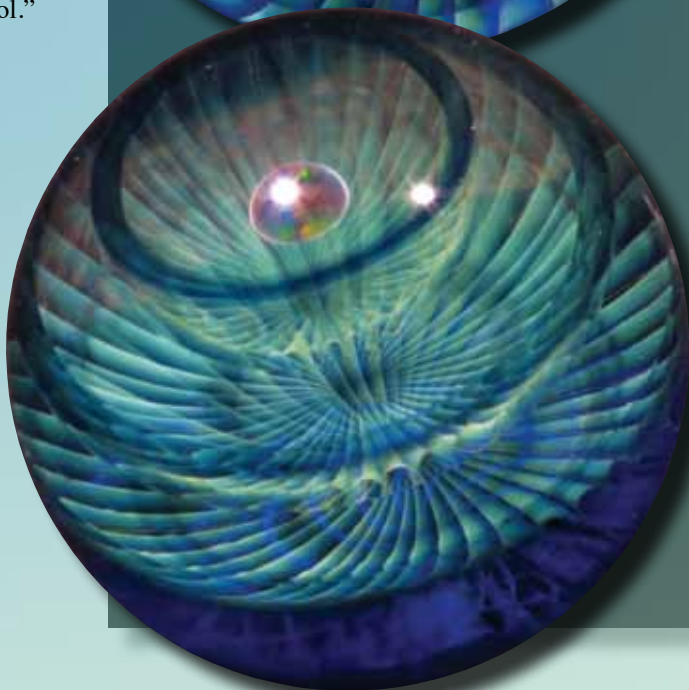




## Meditative Marble Moments

Bridges likes to think of his work as a bridge to a meditative state of consciousness. He tries to lure in viewers from a distance with appealing color presence. Then he draws them closer and closer as they discover ever finer levels of texture and form, ultimately forgetting their current surroundings, even if only for a flickering moment. Such states of consciousness, John believes, are not only desirable, but also necessary for a well-balanced mental state.

As John points out: "It's easy to be overwhelmed by the rush-rush and fact overload of everyday life. Everyone must find some small way to access thoughtlessness, weightlessness, and present mindedness—a momentary escape for a release from intellectual pressure. The act of marble gazing is uniquely qualified to offer that healing service. Between the inherent dreaminess of ethereal forms suspended in solid glass and the primordial shape of the sphere, not to mention easy mobility and access, they are nothing less than a utilitarian magical tool."



## Never Ending Discoveries

John's work is an ongoing tale, delving into forms only so long as it takes to digest them, then moving on. The result is a body of work low on repetition and rich in evolution, which he regards as an endless quest for perfection. As a final seal on each piece, the artist enjoys giving them elaborate names that seek to express the idea or emotion that he sees suggested in color and form.

A fairly extensive marble image gallery, which is a delight to peruse, can be found on John's website. Even better though, catch up with the intrepid marbler at the shows where he will be participating in 2016 including: Marble Masters at the Goosefire Gallery, DFO at Cornerstone Studios, Oregon Country Fair, and Wheaton Marble Weekend, and culminating with the epic glass campout MELT!

FLOW

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