

Dear Readers,

With the temperature heating up outside, I feel the need to warn you that this issue will only increase your shop's temperature by a few more degrees. With so many images of beautiful marbles and interesting techniques, you won't be able to resist creating a few of your own. Marbles can be mesmerizing and entirely addictive once you can execute the basics of the necessary procedures. This issue is dedicated to taking the mystery out of marbles by bringing you advice from marble collectors, tips on achieving roundness, and many more practical techniques for designing a great marble.

Contemporary marble styles are continually evolving and are enhanced by each artist's imagination. Even though you are limited to the strict spherical shape, that shape itself can lead to interesting effects if used to your advantage. Something as subtle as the size and shape of your lens can greatly affect the finished orb's optics and the overall look of the marble. Some glass artists think that marbles are too confining because of the shape restrictions, but some of us just take it as a challenge.

Until next time . . . Keep your light shining and your torches lit!



Jennifer Quaid
Editor

Additional Thoughts from Wil Menzies

It is a distinct honor to present an issue devoted entirely to the art of the orb. Marbles have always fascinated me. I still remember holding my first O'Grady vortex. The illusion of depth was hypnotizing. It didn't take long till I was hooked.

Marbles present a 360-degree, naked landscape that allows for no imperfections—the challenge of making a perfect sphere in an imperfect world. That was the motivation in my marble-shaping tutorial for our e-newsletter, which you can find at www.theflowmagazine.com/newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Many thanks to all of our artists and collectors, without whom this issue would not be in your hands.



William "Boxfan" Menzies
Founding Editor

Upcoming deadlines for submission:

Fall 2008 June 20, 2008
Educational and Holiday Issue

Winter 2008 September 20, 2008
Fourth Annual Women in Glass Issue

Spring 2009 December 20, 2008
Sculptural Issue

If you are interested in becoming a contributing artist for *The Flow*, please see our author guidelines at www.theflowmagazine.com/tutorialsubmit.htm or e-mail editor@theflowmagazine.com for more information.

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Website: www.theflowmagazine.com
E-Mail: theflow@theflowmagazine.com
sales@theflowmagazine.com
editor@theflowmagazine.com

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safety precautions when working with glass.*