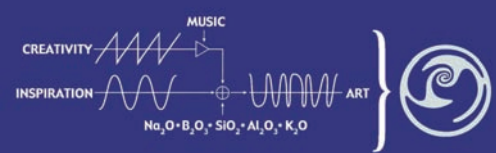
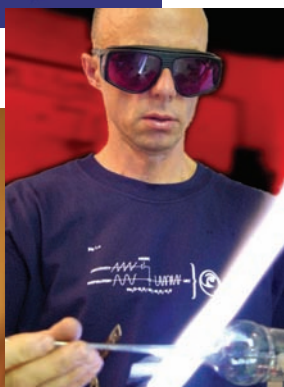


Bridging Gaps and Extending Boundaries —

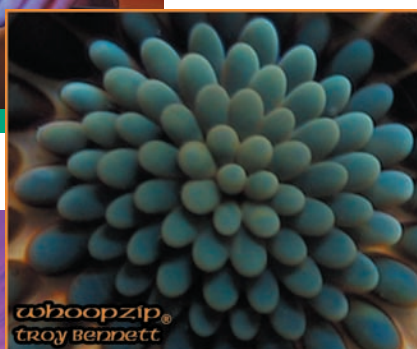
Fig 1.a



Emillo Santini wearing
a Fig.1a 2004



Troy Bennett wearing
the Whoopzip hat and
Troy Bennett shirt



Jason Ryner wearing
Filip Vogelpohl 2006



In the spring of 1999 in Ithaca, New York, Troy Bennett and Krista Hanny, two beginning glassblowers, set out to create a line of clothing that would represent the glassblowing subculture and the artists who were pushing the limits of borosilicate glass. Since the first shirts were to be pictures of glass patterns, they wanted the name to reflect that idea. They wrestled with the name for quite some time, but always came back to a made-up word that they thought summed up all glass patterns as a whole, “Whoopzip.”

Simple Beginnings

The Whoopzip Clothing Company was born with a maxed-out credit card and some bargain-bin T-shirts with novice photos of Ithaca’s finest glass. Aaron & Missy Ferranti, JC, Hal, Steve Gelb, JP, Troy, and Noah Drew were the original Whoopzip artists between 1999 and 2001. “It was a hard sell with crappy photos and a name like Whoopzip, but we were promoting our scene and some future innovators,” said Troy. As time would go on, Phish Tour and other art and music festivals would help to spread Whoopzip around the U.S. “I can remember getting phone calls from friends on vacation to tell us they saw somebody wearing a Whoopzip shirt. I think I was always as surprised as I was excited,” said Krista. (Those original designs, unfortunately, can no longer be printed.)

On a random day in January 2001, Troy was making wig-wag balls for a piece while thinking about how Whoopzip really needed a logo. At that moment he saw a W & Z in the spiral he was making, and the company’s logo was born. Whoopzip went on to introduce hats and sweatshirts with its new logo, which quickly became a recognizable symbol to fellow lampworkers.

T-Shirts and Immortality

The top priority between 2002 and 2003 was learning how to photograph glass. It was during this time that the criteria regarding a photo for a Whoopzip shirt became a serious hassle, as glare was not an option. “I was practicing taking photos of one of my favorite pieces, a Marbleslinger pendant that I bought for Krista, and I got an amazing shot. Then I had to work up enough nerve to call Slinger and see if he had ever heard of Whoopzip and if he wanted to make a shirt. I’m glad he was down because it is, to this day, the most popular Whoopzip shirt. Blowers like Slinger, Ease, Jason Lee, and Clinton were our idols, and it was our dream to have them on a Whoopzip shirt,” Troy stated. In the spring of 2003 Whoopzip was proud to release Marbleslinger, Ease, Troy, and Steve Gelb.



A Brief History of the WHOOPZIP Clothing Company

by Terry Finch

In 2004, Whoopzip released “Fig. 1a, the chemical breakdown of a glassblower.” This design was an experiment and the company wasn’t sure how it would go over, but it is a close runner-up to Slinger for most popular Whoopzip shirt. This design spawned “The Tube Pull,” another unexpected hit.

In the beginning of 2005 Troy broke his hand, leaving him with some time to orchestrate the Gasp, Fro, Josh Sable, Jesse “JEH” Hastings, Jason Lee, and JP designs. Also during this time, whoopzip.com was finally launched. The year 2006 was the year that we created the slogan, “Bridging Gaps and Extending Boundaries,” which really represented Whoopzip—sculptors, marble artists, and pipe artists all for one common cause. Robert Mickelsen, Daniel Benway, Gateson Recko, Kobuki, Filip Vogelpohl, and Shad would be the last of the photo shirts and the beginning of a new direction.

Limited Edition Designs

In 2007 Whoopzip’s style began to evolve along with the new styles of art emerging from the glass community. The release of Pakoh, Bearclaw, and Banjo, along with three equipment-related designs, was a huge stepping-stone for Whoopzip. In these shirts, you could now see more of a portfolio of the artist instead of one specific design. “We feel that these designs really make a statement and showcase how cutting-edge our glass scene really is,” commented Krista. Currently, all Whoopzip Clothing is “Limited Edition.” The designs are still on three colors, but there are only thirty-three of each color made. In the fall of 2007, Whoopzip also released Jason Lee’s hat, and they sold out in record time.

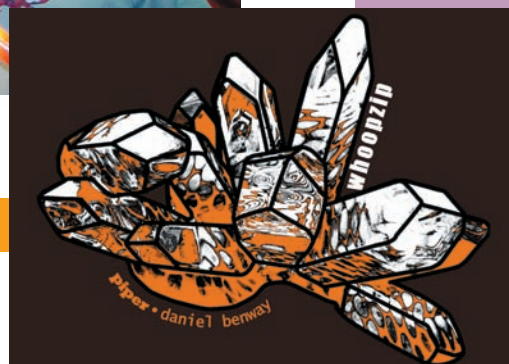
So far in 2008, Whoopzip has released Clinton’s shirt and Daniel Trilli’s memorial shirt. When asked what we can look forward to from Whoopzip Troy shared, “Well, there are Bob Snodgrass and Matt Eskuche projects already in the making, but I hope to promote as many talented glass artists as possible.” When asked what the future holds for Whoopzip Krista replied, “Profits, I hope. But seriously, we just want to keep on sharing our love for glass with the world.”



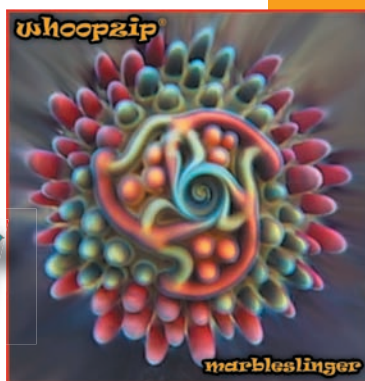
Robert Mickelsen
wearing the TubePull
2004



Wil Menzies wearing
Daniel Benway 2006



Daniel Trilli Memorial 2008



Daniel Benway
wearing
Marbleslinger's
shirt 2003



www.whoopzip.com

FLOW