



Dear Readers,

We are coming into a beautiful spring season. All seasons represent change, but spring brings imagery of new life and growth. I can envision the new buds forming on dew-dropped branches.

It is very fitting that our first international issue comes out in the spring. We are quite honored that Japan was the first country to be featured in *The Flow*. The Japanese have long been known for patience, creativity, and an unparalleled attention to detail. We hope you enjoy the incredible florals and uncanny symmetry of their flamework. It was an honor to work with so many talented artisans. As you look at these unique works, please remember that the glass they use has some of the highest COEs in the world of glass art. Satake and Kinari range from 124 COE to 128 COE. I have never had glass fall off the mandrel so quickly.

Also, Jennifer and I have some exciting news to share. As you all know, the magazine has always been more than we could pull off in a timely manner. Last year Jen and I began a journey to find the proper partner for *The Flow* who could help us bring it to the next level. It had to be someone with an established publishing background who shared our love of the glass community, especially us flammers. A tall order, I know, but an order that was fulfilled nonetheless.

We are pleased to announce that we have partnered with Maureen and Steven James of *Glass Patterns Quarterly* and *Profitable Glass Quarterly* and have been working hand in hand with them to produce this Japanese issue. Over the past twenty-four years, Maureen has guided these titles to become leaders in the art glass industry while never missing a deadline. As our new publisher, Maureen brings with her an entire staff of magazine professionals dedicated to providing our community the quality and service that you deserve. Jennifer will remain as editor in charge of content and design. I will continue to run around in circles and track graphite into the house. This is a wonderful change that we hope will bring the following to our valued readers:

- A timely print schedule. As mentioned, Maureen has never missed a deadline in nearly twenty-five years.
- More efficient service. With nine more team members, we have a more complete infrastructure to quickly handle your requests.
- Faster mail service. We now qualify for special mail privileges, which will reduce our mail time by more than half.
- Increased print quality. *PGQ* and *GPQ* have set high standards for art glass publications.
- Easier phone communication. You will now have a toll-free number to call between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday.

So when you all open this issue and think "Wow, didn't I just get the last one," you'll know why the Japanese issue was on time. We hope that you are as pleased as Jennifer and I. We want *The Flow* to be a reflection of our community and look forward to your feedback. Thank you for years of patience and support.

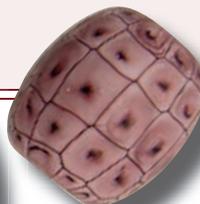
We anxiously await your response to this issue and look forward to your suggestions for next year's featured country. Please send your suggestions to [editor@theflowmagazine.com](mailto:editor@theflowmagazine.com).

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

Much love,

William "Boxfan" Menzies  
Founding Editor

The Flow would like to thank Keith Bryan, Emiko Sawamoto, Akihiro Ohkama, Toshiki Akimoto, Yasuhiro Miyamoto, Naomi Murata, Masae Gomez and Craig Milliron. Without their help this issue would not have been possible.



Beads By Miki Yoshida

# The Flow

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