



RICK AND JANET NICHOLSON
Master Glass Blowing Team

Portrait of an Artist Partnership

by Nora Leech

DDATING BACK OVER FOUR THOUSAND YEARS, noble families of Rome, Venice, Phoenicia and Egypt have decorated their homes with glass art. People with vision and wealth defined good taste by adorning their homes with the work of the best local artisans. Today, their collections fill the art museums around the world. Families in the Northern California are doing the same.

Just North of Auburn, Janet and Rick Nicholson of Nicholson Blown Glass are providing hand-blown art for the homes of art lovers in our region as well as for major businesses around the globe. Their works involve fluid torsos, sculptural lighting, and multiple-piece wall and ceiling installations. With the recent opening of the Auburn Wine trail, the Nicholsons have created hand blown decanters and stoppers for the local travelers.

Running a successful art studio for thirty years is a testament to quality of their work. Their small studio nestled in the Sierra foothills provides a lifestyle conducive to the hallmark of their work: innovation and creativity. Their work is unique, evolving and limited with each piece individually blown by Rick Nicholson and assisted by Matt Eaton. Rick studied and taught glass blowing at the Pilchuck Glass School working with masters such as Dale Chihuly, Dino Rosin and Fritz Dreisbach. Janet, with her training from Brooks Institute of Photography, provides critical artistic collaboration on color, line and form. The results: elegant glass art.

Glass art completely changes the ambiance of space, bringing it alive with color light and personality. The Nicholsons' ability to incorporate metal into both the artistic and structural components of their projects have allowed their designs to expand.

Recent notable projects include two seven piece wall installations from the Landscape Series for the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Shenzhen, China; a twenty-one piece wall installation for the lobby of Weil, Gotschal & Manges International Law Firm in Dallas, Texas; a seventeen piece wall installation titled Ribbon Dance for the new Kaiser Permanente medical building in Roseville, California and multiple glass and steel sculptures for the M Resort in Las Vegas, NV.

The Nicholsons work with clients interested in placing original art in their homes. A beautiful home in the Sierra foothills recently added Nicholson Blown Glass throughout their home including custom lighting in the entryway, kitchen and stairwell. Glass art completely changes the ambiance of space, bringing it alive with color, light and personality. "The Nicholsons understood our vision and made it a reality." Remarks Sandra, the homeowner.

Cindi Ray of Carlyn Gallerie has directed numerous clients to the Nicholsons. "Your customer service is awesome which makes our life so much easier."

People have been fascinated by color and light since the Pharaohs of Egypt. Glass as a medium creates mesmerizing effects. Materials as mundane as iron and as exotic as gold are used to create the brilliant colors uniquely interpreted in glass such as the emerald greens to cranberry pinks.

American glass blowers are taking the ancient art to new heights. Modern glass art is prominent in today's art galleries, museums, businesses and private homes. People with vision and resources continue to define tastes in art. This time it is the American legacy being created.

Visit www.nicholsonblownglass.com or call 530.823.1631 for additional information and to schedule tours.