

# Eric W. Hansen Art Glass



[www.hansenpaperweights.com](http://www.hansenpaperweights.com)

- How I learned about glass
- The Hansen Brother's
- My Background
- My Studio
- Recent Works



# Hansen Brothers

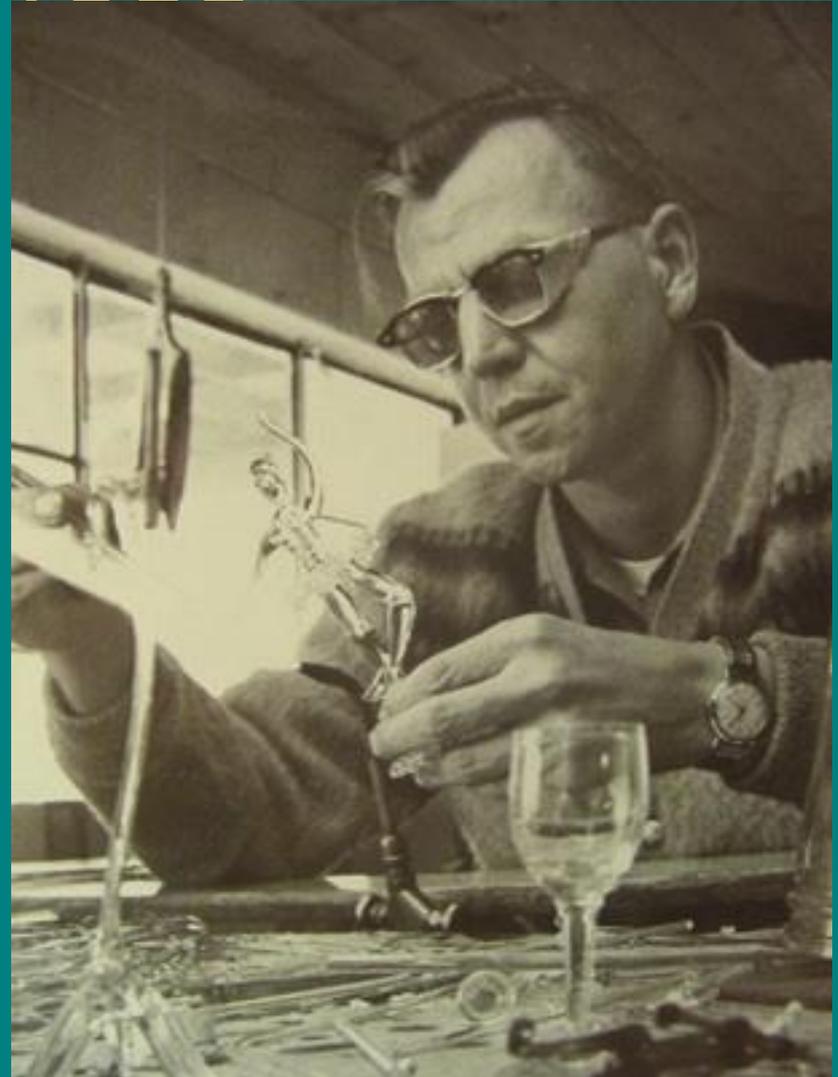
## (My Dad and Two Uncles)

- Richard, Robert, and Ronald
- All born in Minnesota, moved to Michigan
- Ron and Bob: WWII Vets
- All three attended to neon sign school NY
- Bob and Dick moved to CA, Ron stayed in Michigan
- All three shared ideas about paperweights, lampwork and carnival glass

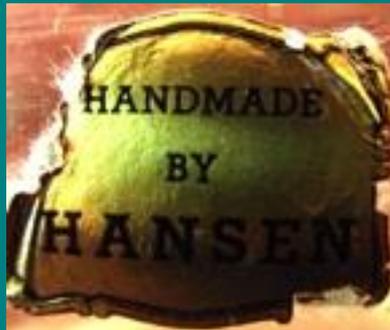
# Richard Hansen

## 1928-1983

- Father of five very tall kids
- Rotarian
- Sign Painter
- Neon “Tube Bender”
- One of the early “Lampworkers” in CA
- Open glass shop in Corning, CA, continued until 2005



# Richard and Arlene



Friday, August 31, 1973 — DAILY NEWS PEOPLE ARE PROGRESS '73, Red Bluff, Ga. — 7

## Artisan

much more efficient to make them by machine, as it is to make most other glassware.

But machines don't produce the myriad of delicate artistic objects that the Hansens do.

"We make all sorts of figurines—anything from an elephant to an angel," Hansen explained. He displayed a graceful blown swan in blue glass.

Intricate and elaborate decorations to top wedding cakes were originated at the Corning shop, and have proved exceptionally popular.

The Hansens came to Corning in 1906. For seven or eight years they also ran a shop in Savannah, but are now operating only the Corning shop, which is on Old Highway 96, north of School Street, near South Avenue.

Hansen estimates that from 40,000 to 50,000 persons have been stopping at their place in recent years, mostly to watch the glassblowing and buy the art objects created, though they do sell olives and some other items.

The additions to the stock in trade were made a few years ago when Interstate 5 Freeway opened and some of the roadside stands along 96W closed. The Hansens attract customers from the freeway with large signs, and they also have a long-established reputation.



**PRODUCTS OF THEIR ART** — Mrs. Hansen holds an intricate piece of glass sculpture, and her husband holds a blown swan filled with colored water.

# Grew up in the “Glass Twist”

- 1961 “Glass Twist”  
Corning, CA





# Living in the back half of the shop the first year...



Later, fixing up this old beauty...



# Richard Hansen Paperweights



# Robert G. Hansen

## 1924-2006



- Marine Corps WWII
- Father of four boys
- Self employed
- Signs/Neon
- Lampworking
- Carnival
- Paperweights

# Bob and Helen in Frankenmuth, Michigan



# Robert Hansen Carnival Glass







# Robert Hansen Paperweights

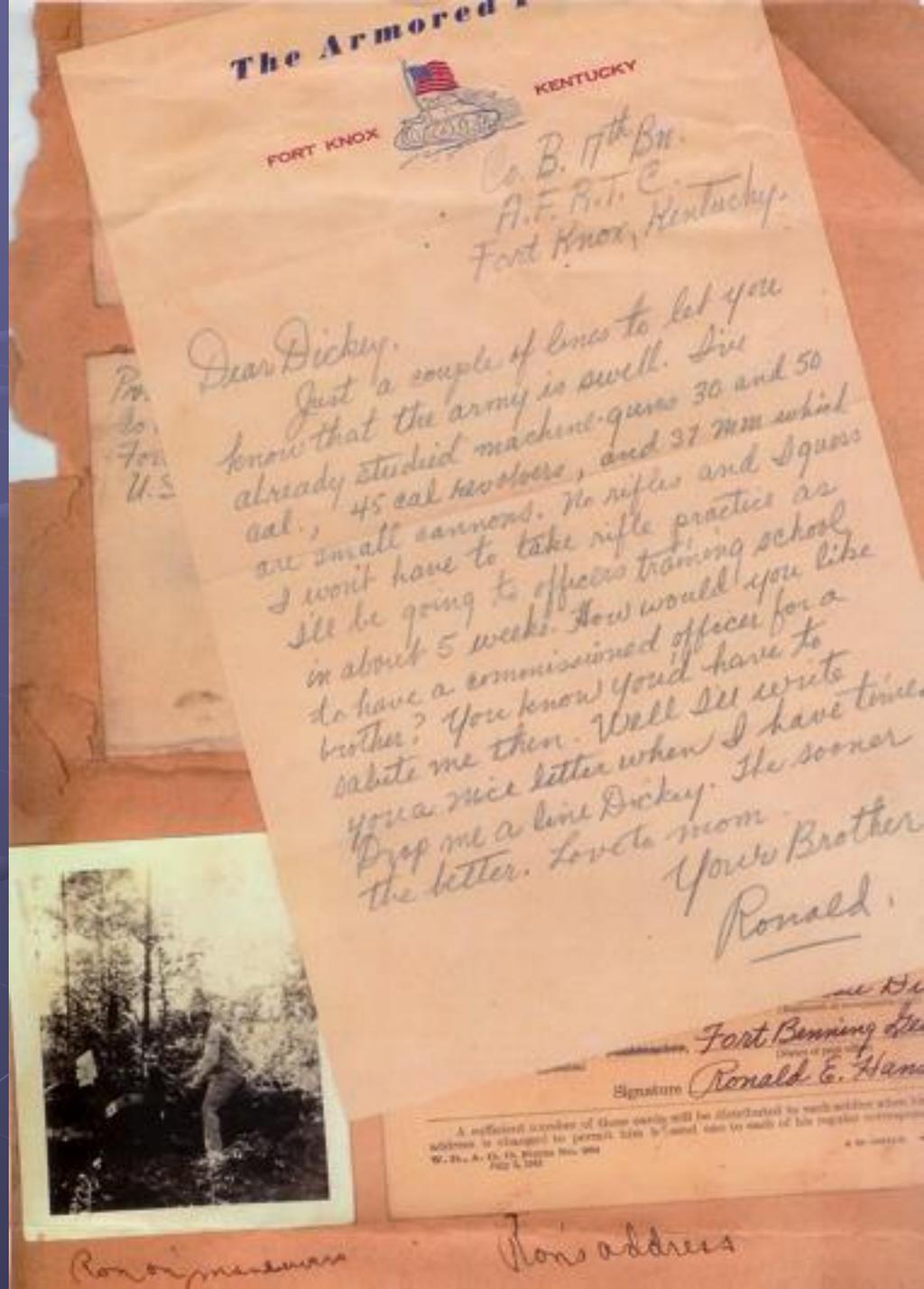


# Ronald E. Hansen

1913-1987



- Great Sax Player
- Oratorical Champion
- Signs/Neon
- MSGT WWII



- Paperweights
- Carnival Glass
- Lampwork





Ronald Hansen, glass artist, with a case containing scores of his paperweights.

## Ronald Hansen

# Weights Sold Fast

THE Detroit Antiques Show held from October 23 to 26 in the Masonic Temple was the 31st in a series that have come to be known for fine displays of glass.

Highlighting this show was the appearance of Ronald Hansen, contemporary glass artist from Mackinaw City, Michigan. Hansen brought with him a selection of the paperweights for which he is noted, offering them for sale at prices from \$75 to \$250. Response was so enthusiastic that the few fruit weights in the group were sold within the early hours of the show. The coral weights were being sold, in some cases, as many as two to a customer.

Hansen has been making weights for about ten years. His work is widely respected by glass collectors and the recent spiraling prices of Hansen pieces have made them the target of speculative investors, as well. Hansen reports that some of his weights have sold as high as \$600 after passing through the hands of several dealers. At a

May 16, 1965, sale of paperweights at Parke-Bernet, two Hansen weights were sold for \$240 each.

Art glass, Oriental objects and jewelry were the usual offerings of the dealers in this show. Only a few pieces of furniture were available.

Art glass included a coralless vase, affecting coils and also for its brilliance. It was priced at \$600. A desert set in Holly Archer was priced at \$475 for the large bowl, and each of the

six matching saucer dishes were individually priced at \$165.

Folk art included a human head (instead of a tree) and priced at \$65. A scrimshaw ivory case with a wood head was \$45.

Jewelry was mostly Victorian and largely costume. A number of Victorian silver and silver-plated dresser articles were in evidence. Bathing hooks, pin tray and darning eggs with silver handles, ranged \$3 to \$8. Hand mitts were offered at prices of \$10, \$15 and \$30.—Betty Lacey





# BACCARAT

*The Crystal of Kings*

March 25, 1966

Mr. Ronald E. Hansen  
Box 754  
Mackinaw City, Michigan

Dear Mr. Hansen:

You may recall that, during the last convention of the paperweight collectors at Old Sturbridge, where I had the pleasure of meeting you, we talked of the possibility of your going to Baccarat, in France, to teach them again the technique of lamp work which you have mastered so well and which they seem to have lost. I left you with the understanding that you would be willing, provided the conditions were satisfactory, and I so informed Baccarat's management.

After many months of pondering over it, they have just informed me that they would like to know under what terms you would be willing to undertake such a mission, for 2 weeks or more, according to whatever time you might consider necessary to impart enough knowledge to one or two men there so that they could at least try to fend for themselves afterwards.

The agreement should, of course, cover your transportation both ways, plus all expenses while there on Baccarat's behalf, plus a fee, of course.

I am certain that in many ways this idea could prove of mutual profit since you would undoubtedly be interested in viewing the Baccarat factory, the making of their sulphides and millefiori, as well as the more than 200 different colors of full-lead crystal which they produce for stained glass windows and the more than 200 canes for the millefiori...to say nothing of the rest of the factory which is also extremely interesting.

You would find our chief engineer there, Guillaume Chausseil, a man of great culture in his field and in composition, and an artist in his own right who found again, by himself, the old technique of the millefiori and the sulphides.



# Ron and Dorothy



# Authored articles in Paperweight Bulliten



## Camp Work - Its Significance to Paperweights

by Ronald E. Hansen

### FOREWORD

Over ten years ago I heard from our friend Albert Christian Revi about a man who was producing "some nice paperweights" and I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter from Ronald Hansen together with some glass pieces he had made for me. When I saw these articles I said to myself, "A new star is born in the paperweight world" mine, even if these pieces were not perfect their colors were beautiful and you could "feel" that the workmanship was there.

We started corresponding and I gave Ronald the little advice I could plus a lot of encouragement, because I fully understood that this extremely gifted man was also a very modest individual.

## Hidden Facets of a Paperweight

by Ronald E. Hansen



It is most pleasing to me that another opportunity has presented itself through the column of this bulletin to discuss the thoughts and problems that traverse my mind during the long hours I spend making weights. While sitting patiently for glass to heat or anneal, I

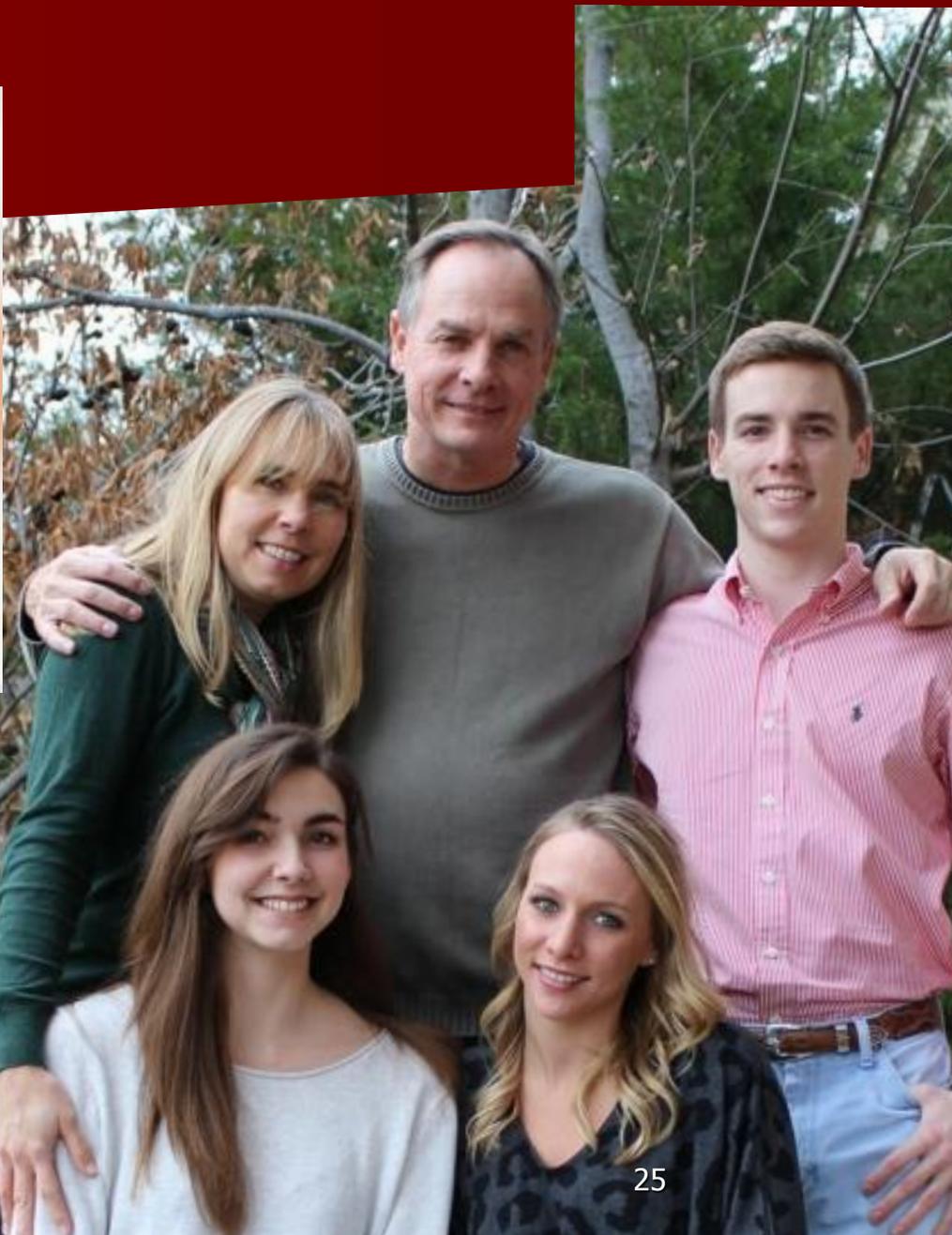
"Beauty consists in due proportion, for the senses delight in things duly proportioned because the sense too is a sort of reason, as is every cognitive power."

Montaigne says: "We fancy its forms according to our appetite and liking."

# About me...Eric W. Hansen



# my family

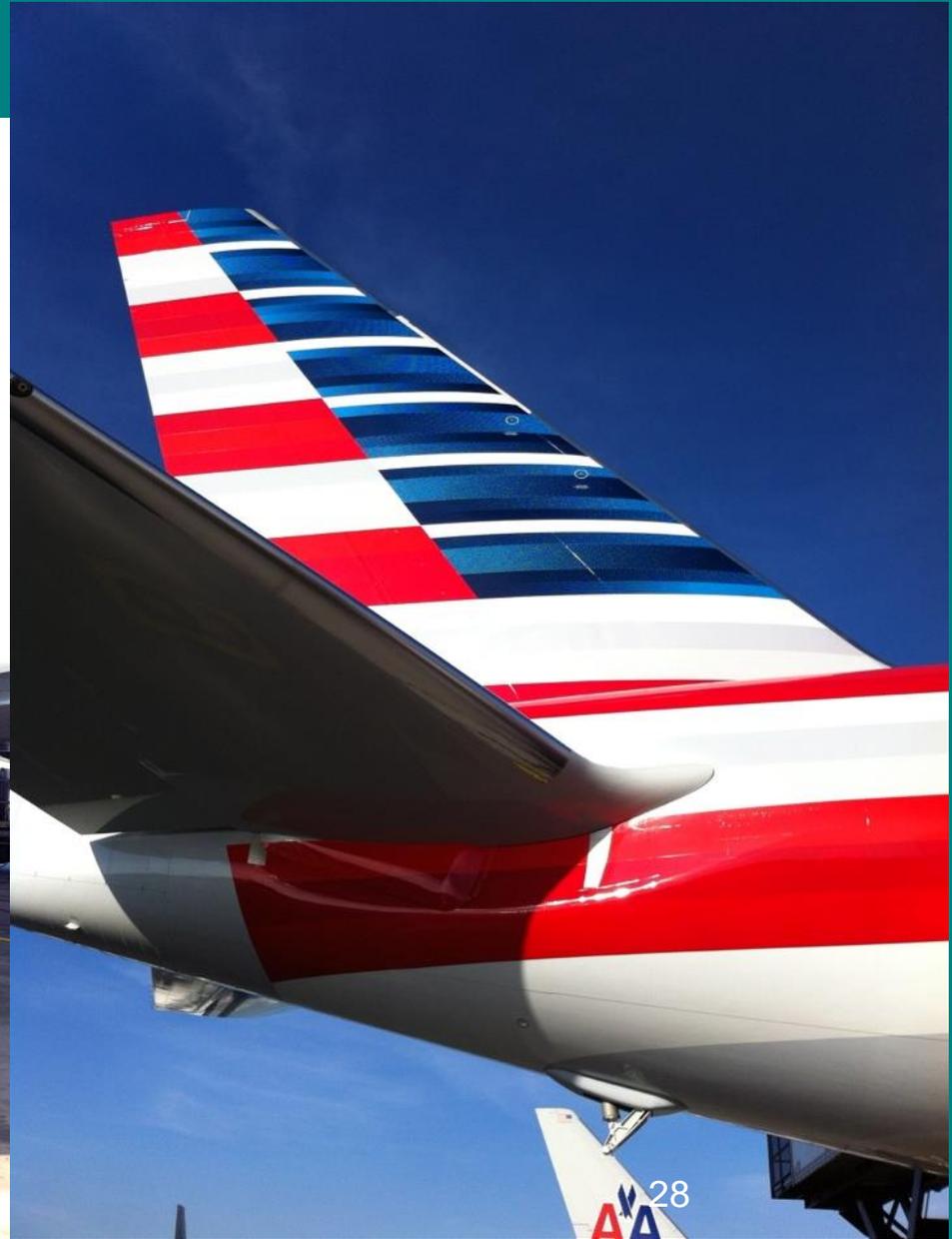


# Fly Navy!!



# Day Job...







# Studio and Recent Works















And now the glass...



# Lampwork



# Offhand



# "Carte Blanche"





# Crimps



# The Goblet Challenge



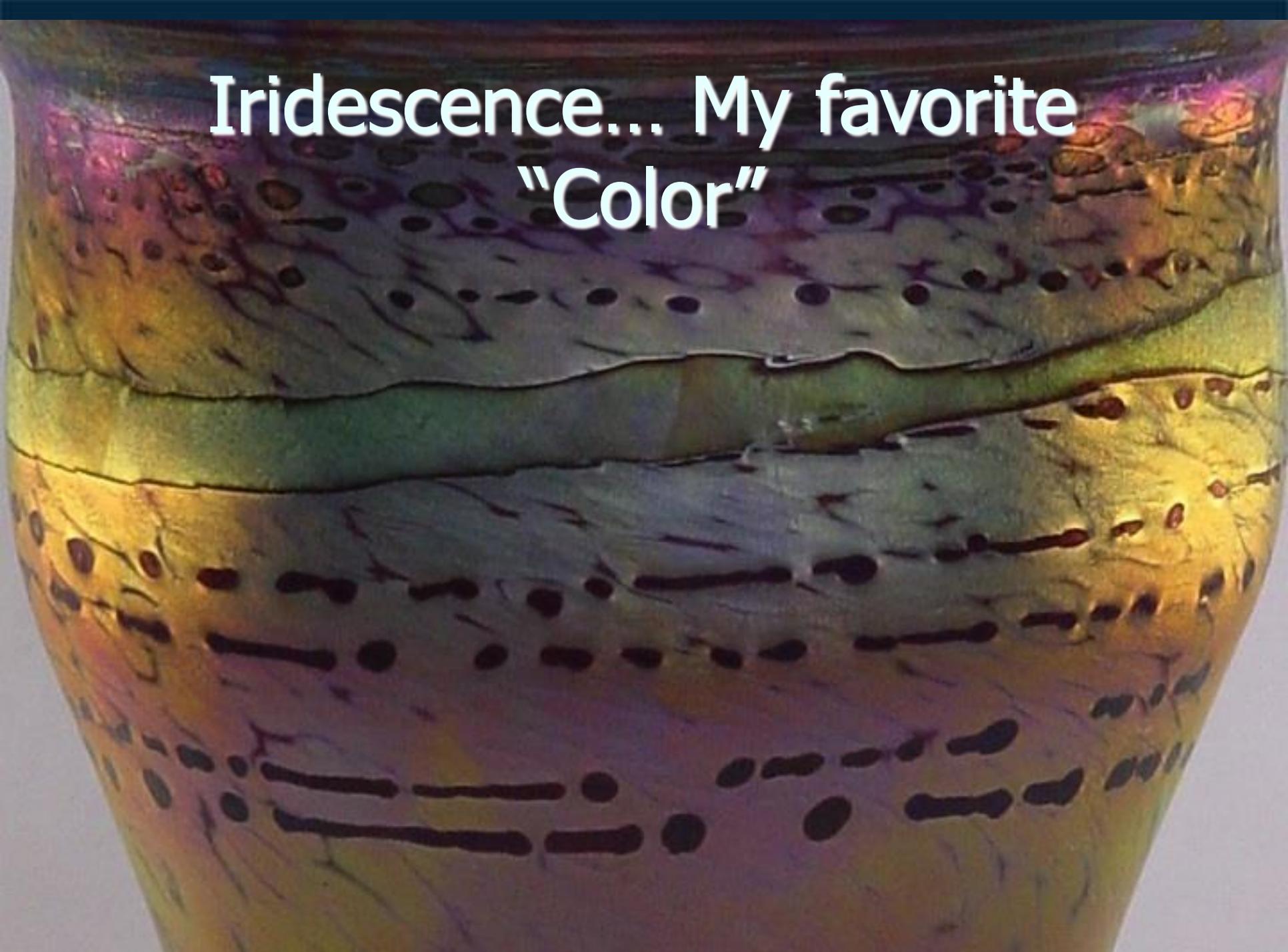
# California Style



# Surface Decorating



Iridescence... My favorite  
"Color"





# Silky Tiffany-Style...



# Carnival Style...



# Lampwork Encapsulation



















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