

# Contemporary Glass

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## Brian and Jenny Blanthorn

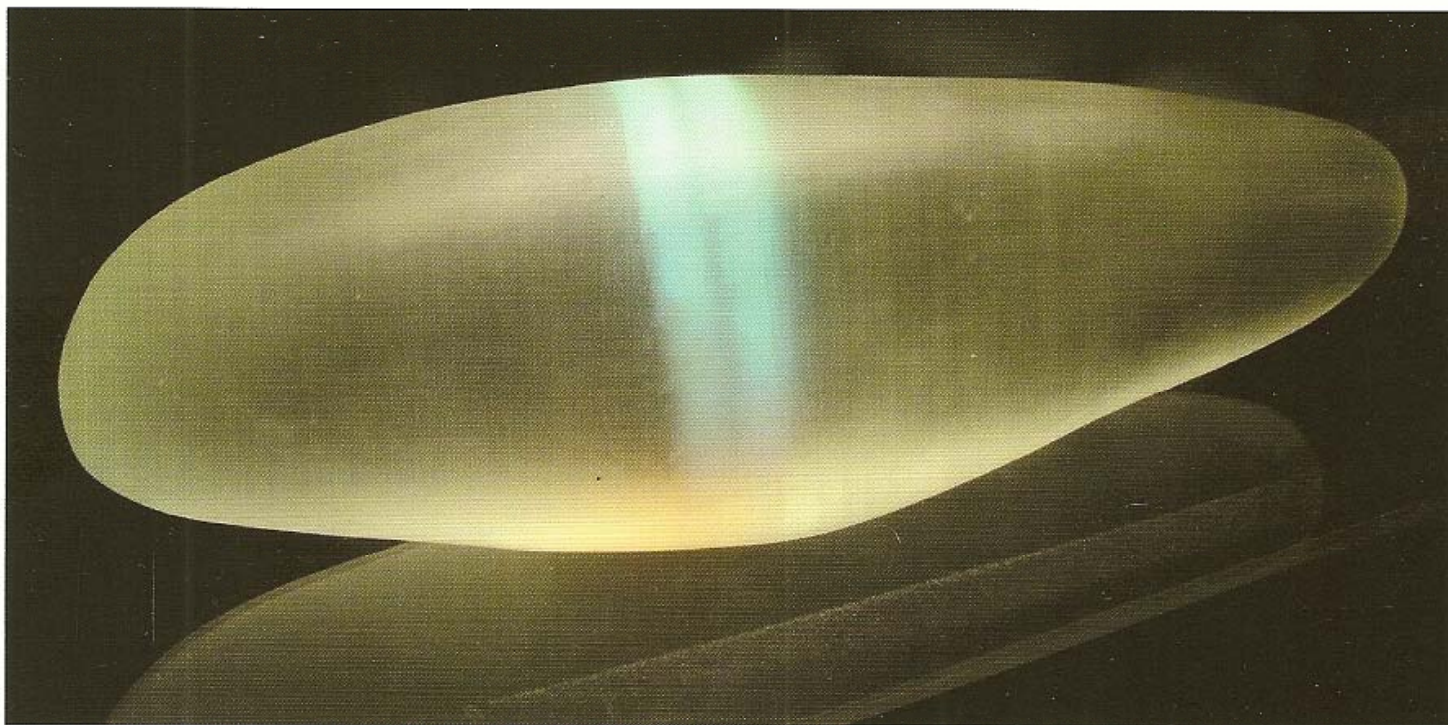
Husband and wife duo Brian and Jenny Blanthorn have worked together on their glass sculptural and functional pieces since 1983, creating their trademark striated and iridescent works using a number of techniques, processes and custom designed machinery perfected over the 30 years of working together.

Inspired by the naturally occurring patterns of oceanic and mountain rock formations and the vibrant colours found in tropical marine life, the globular, pebble sculptures harbour a myriad of optical illusions, visual interferences and subtle colour variations that alter the viewers' vantage-point; seeming from one perspective merely naturally occurring rock or crystal boulders but from another, as if made of some gaseous extra-terrestrial material.

The highly time-consuming and technically complex production process that goes into each piece arises from the synthesis of the couple's individual interests and areas of technical expertise; Brian's interests in ceramics and the construction of glass-working machinery and Jenny's background in textiles and pattern-making. Layers of flat sheet glass are painted or block printed using sponging and dragging techniques—creating a galaxy of colours and subtle pattern variations in the finished work—before being assembled in the kiln in complex multiple laminate arrangements. After firing at between 800 and 950 degrees centigrade, the pieces undergo the chiselling, grinding, polishing and waxing stages that determine their finished forms; each piece taking as long as two to three months to complete.

Using either combinations of clear and dichroic glass which, due to its thin layer of minerals and metals, gives the chromatic internal reflections of pieces such as *W278*, 2005, or dichroic and 'opalescent' glass which generates the highly coloured and holographic effect of pieces such as *W283*, 2006, the volatility of kiln-formed compounds of flat sheet glass and subtle variations in the multi-staged fabrication process guarantees each piece its own uniqueness while maintaining the distinctive stamp of the Blanthorn's highly skilled and painstaking practice.

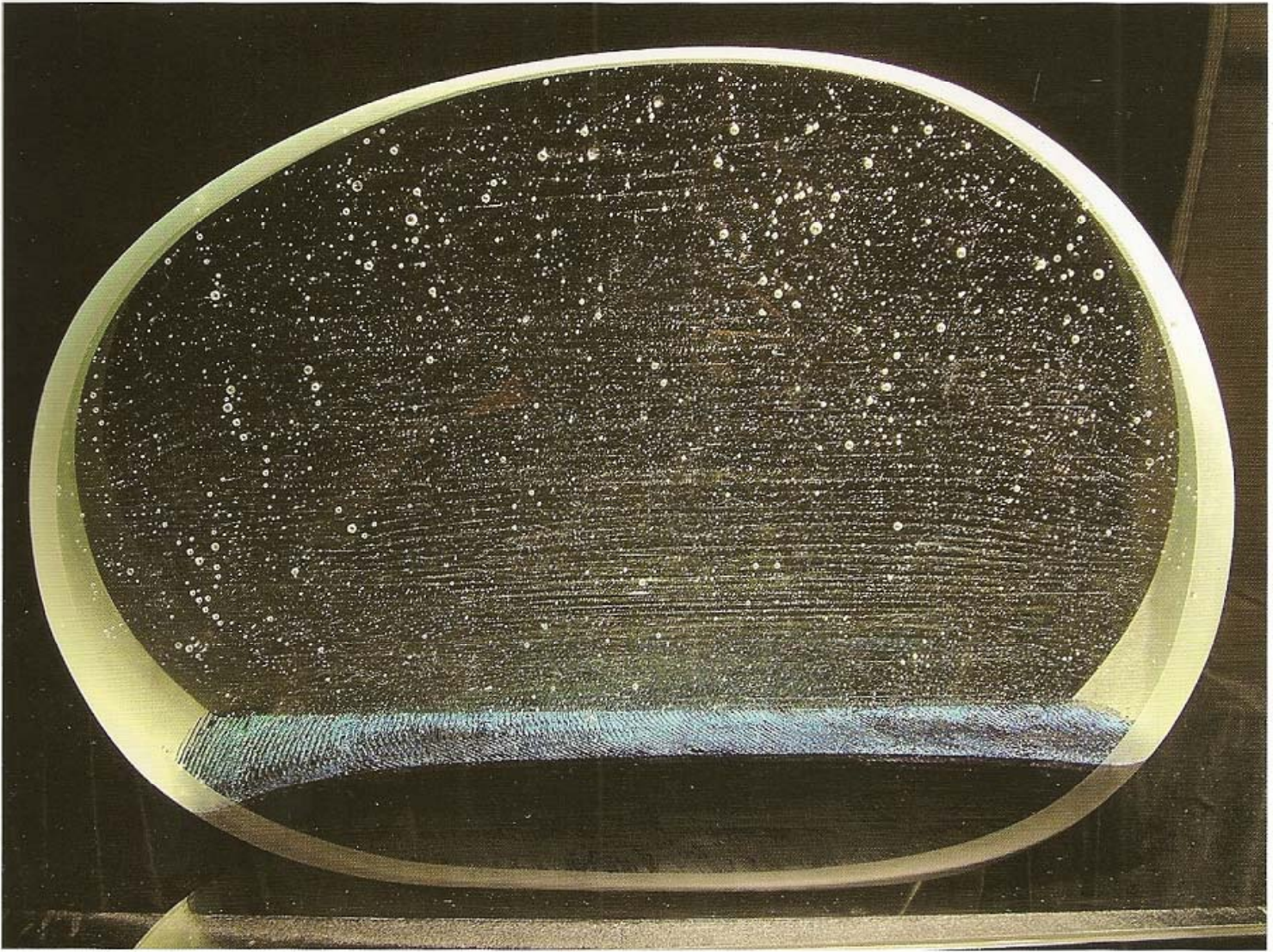
As well as their sculptural pieces, Brian and Jenny Blanthorn have worked on architectural commissions throughout England and have exhibited in a number of galleries and art fairs in London and New York.



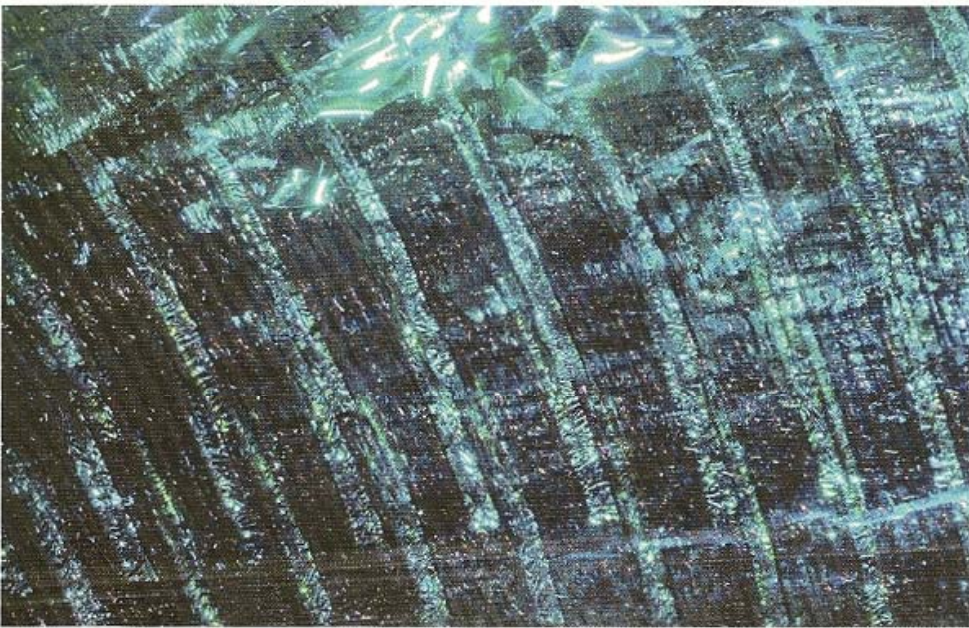
1 Large boulder optical type glass and Dichroic glass, 2005  
33 x 50 x 9 cm.

2 Optical type glass and Dichroic glass, 2008  
53 x 19 x 8 cm.

3 Large boulder 'opalescent' glass and Dichroic glass, 2006  
50 x 29 x 8 cm.



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