

Glass Blower Green Screen Script

Glass blowing has been around since the height of the Roman Empire. It was around that time, when people discovered that molten glass could be inflated by blowing into a hollow tube, and shaped by the human touch. There are many different techniques that glass blowers use to form vessels and decorative pieces, but for 2000 years, the base techniques have remained relatively unchanged.

(Suzi Perret of Ventura Hot Glass talks to us about this art form - that's become her life's work and passion. (ALTERNATE OPTION)

It all begins with glass that is melted in a furnace at over 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. The glass emerges as a pliable gob dangling precariously from the end of a scalding hot blowpipe. Once the gob is secured, the other end of the 4-foot steel or iron pipe is cooled in a barrel of water – and the glass blower can set to work handling and shaping the delicate mass.

The glass blower blows into the pipe to begin forming a bubble in the glass – all the while keeping the pipe rotating. More layers of glass (*material?*) can be added with a gathering iron, or by dipping the pipe back into the furnace.

The shaping of the glass often begins with nothing more than a wet newspaper between the glass blower's bare hands and the 2000 degree molten mass. It's a race against gravity and time, as the artist must keep the pipe spinning continuously, or risk ruining the fragile creation.

The glass blower also employs several tools to help shape and smooth the glass, while rolling it across a flat steel surface called a marver. Patterns and colors can be added to the creation, by rolling the molten glass in powdered color... or in larger pieces of colored glass called frit.

The process continues again and again, with this series of gathering, inflating, and shaping - until the artist's vision has been achieved.

After the vessel is formed to the desired shape and color, it's placed in an annealing oven (*or kiln, if difficult to say*) that allows the glass to cool down slowly over 24 hours – keeping it from cracking under thermal stress. Once cooled, the glass can be ground, polished, engraved, and detailed further.

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