



Glass Art – Ulrike Umlauf-Orron

"Fusing, that means melting glass," says Ulrike Umlauf-Orron. "To make large pieces, I fuse three individually colored panes into a sandwich. When it has cooled, I plan how to proceed, and I put them back into the kiln. Some pieces are fired as many as seven times." She shows a glass artwork covered in fine lattice texture. "The pigments are almost as costly as gold," she adds. "Slumping" is another technique. The pane is placed on a mold, into which it melts in the kiln. To top it all off, she adds: "This is my secret! Globally unique: the nubs!" They rise in geometric order from the smooth surface, all the same size and ... hollow inside! When viewed from behind, the bowl appears smooth. It's not just a utilitarian object, but a marvel that points beyond itself. "I want people to be amazed!" says Umlauf-Orron. And indeed, this truly is amazing.

Awe: at the material, at ancient and new techniques. And love, which can be felt when she talks about glass. Her approach is precise and scientific, with a thousand little glass plates stored in a cabinet, a veritable library of color samples. The variations in her oeuvre range from floral formations to soaring, seemingly architectural, triangular shapes. Sometimes water is her theme, sometimes fire, or simply redness. Her inspiration is glass, her great "love at first sight" after her ceramist's apprenticeship. Glass for her – and these are quotes now – is inexhaustible. She is obsessed with bowls. Lines are her secret. She loves the beauty of sandblasting and is inspired by exotic techniques. That's quite a lot of passion for a planner and researcher. But yes, it is all about art for Umlauf-Orron, not about a practical potpourri: "Shaping! I'm fascinated by giving shape to things!"

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Left:Ulrike Umlauf-Orron had actually learned to make Ceramics. Then she got a Scholarship at the Royal College of Art in London. "I was also allowed to mix in the glass. I did a little class, at noon, when the others were at lunch. I was so gripped that I did a thesis in both subjects And then I was in the glass."

Right page: Umlauf-Orron: "My world uniqueness!" The nubs, hollow on the inside, smooth on the back.

