

S N Y D E R M A N - W O R K S G A L L E R I E S

Roland Jahn

- 1934 Born Rudolstadt, Thuringia, Germany.
1957 Came to the U.S. on Fullbright and Brittingham scholarships.
1967-1966 Attended the University of Wisconsin. Studied glass with Harvey Littleton, ceramics with Don Reitz, sculpture with Leo Steppat and Abram Schiennmovitz.
1964 M.S., art and art education, U. Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
1966 M.F.A., glass, ceramics and sculpture, U. Wisconsin, Madison.
1966-2003 Associate professor, University of the Arts, formerly the Philadelphia College of Art.

Nearly 50 years ago I came to Philadelphia to actively practice glass blowing and to teach it. Together with Jesse Carpenter, I built the first glass furnace in Germantown. During my second year here, I developed the first glass blowing program in Philadelphia at the Philadelphia College of Art, and built the original facilities. From the beginning, I realized that I would best serve my students by planting seeds and nurturing their enthusiasm about glass. I consider myself very fortunate that I could be the first glass teacher to a significant number of distinguished glass artists, including Dan Dailey, William Bernstein, Janet Williams-Ritter, Florence Perkins, Jaffa Sikorsky Todd, Joe Pagano, Dan Gaumer, Tom Considine, Dan Cutrone, Gordon Felton, Janine Daniels, Nadine Saylor, Matt Urban, Chris Lydon, Valerie Merriman, Justin Cavagnaro and Fil Adkins.

My early glass pieces reflect my love of and respect for antiques Roman glass, which I discovered while on an archaeological dig at Neuss, Germany, as well as my admiration for the work of my teacher Harvey Littleton, as well as Erwin Eisch and Dominik Labino.

I think of my latest work as drawings of colored light in clear glass, realized by overlapping transparent and opaque colored glasses. I preferred to work with bowl, disk or platter shapes. These forms provide the canvases for my drawings. Usually there are no recognizable images. However, one could read landscapes, underwater forests, or fantastic galaxies and distant universes into them.

My work can be found in numerous private collections and museums, including the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery, Memphis Tennessee; the Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington Delaware; the Newark Museum of Art, Newark, New Jersey; Wheaton Village Museum, Millville, New Jersey; Johnson Foundation, Racine Wisconsin; and the Lannan Foundation, Palm Beach, Florida.