



Sculpture and Design **With Recycled Glass**

Cindy Ann Coldiron



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Dean and Carrie Wolf of Wolf Art Glass (www.WolfArtGlass.com) in Austin, Texas, built their studio specifically to craft art glass with a *minimal consumption of power resources* and the least carbon footprint per piece. Their love of “reverse-engineering” bottles into curious shapes and forms in which the glass was never intended to be can be seen in the photos below and to the right. Picked up on a blowpipe by the lip, the bottle is heated and carefully shaped into a bubble form, then worked using the off-hand glassblowing technique. Additional melted bottle glass is used for the handles and foot. The applied color labels on the bottles survive the blowing process and remain in reference to the glass’s prior function.

Recycled blown bottle flask, Wolf Art Glass/Dean and Carrie Wolf, 7.5" x 5" x 5", furnace manipulated and blown bottle glass, 2009. *Courtesy of the artist.*



Recycled blown bottle pitcher, Wolf Art Glass/Dean and Carrie Wolf, 7.25" x 3.5" x 3.5", furnace manipulated and blown bottle glass, 2009. *Courtesy of the artist.*

Artist Bill Hess of Afton, Virginia (www.ideasonleg.com), created the abstract work “Astral Fragment,” below, from 100% recycled container glass sourced from the local recycling center. The piece was formed by layering different colors of broken glass in a steel ring mold and heating the work to the fusing temperature. After some cold working, the piece underwent a secondary fusing cycle. The use of controlled divitrification of the clear container glass resulted in the work appearing more stone-like.

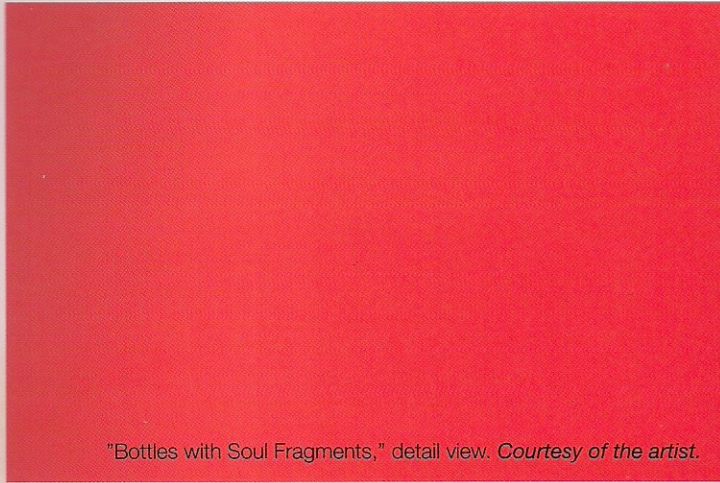


“Astral Fragment,” Bill Hess, 10½" x 7" x 2.5", kiln cast container glass, 2008.

BILL HESS

WEBSITE: www.ideasonlegs.com

Afton, Virginia, United States



"Bottles with Soul Fragments," detail view. *Courtesy of the artist.*



Bill Hess was educated as an artist and engineer and began working with glass at Pratt Fine Arts Center in Seattle. Much of his experience with recycled glass has evolved through independent discovery and extensive experimentation. The results are fascinating and provocative works of art that use the studio processes of casting, fusing, and slumping. Like an alchemist, he works to transform the physicality of glass, while preserving its soul and history. Glass containers have an intimate place in our lives, and this relationship is energetically etched into each piece that he creates.

He strives for efficiency and intelligence in utilizing objects and resources that are beautiful, readily available, and whose prior lives are still evident upon reaching his hands. Over the past 10 years, this reuse philosophy has meshed well with his interest in conveying a message to celebrate, engage, and provoke a more meaningful relationship between people, nature, and objects. He brings this sensibility to the content of his work with recycled glass, whereby natural imagery is introduced either intentionally, by chance, or by discovery through the creative process.

The sculpture "Bottles with Soul Fragments" was created by heating a crucible full of container cullet (with and without labels) and pouring it into a sand mold. The shapes were formed by pressing recovered/discarded bottles into sand. Bottle shards, frit glass, cedar tree sprigs and seed cones were placed into the mold before pouring. The combustibles burned out during the pouring process to leave ghost-like etchings on the surface and inside the final work.

"Bottles with Soul Fragments," Bill Hess, 12" x 12" x 1.5", furnace-cast container glass, 2010.
Courtesy of the artist.



"Bottles with Soul Fragments," detail view.
Courtesy of the artist.

