

CIRCULAR OBSESSIONS



Mixed Media Series
In Glass, Metal & Wood
by Jim Boles



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Circular Obsessions is a sculpture series focusing on media in-the-round. From lathe turned objects to torch-worked glass spheres to cast bronze hemispheres, the circle and the sphere are the central motif revealed in continuously changing form, texture, color, and media.

This mixed media series was 15 years in the making. Working out of his studio in Savage, Minnesota sculptor Jim Boles has been on an aesthetic odyssey of ongoing discovery.

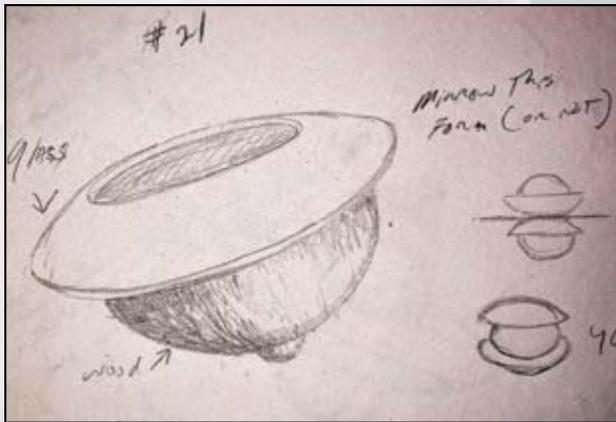
When he started glass fusing there was little printed material available. The Internet was not yet available as a resource, and many

of the materials were becoming readily available for the first time. Jim worked almost exclusively with glass from the Bullseye Glass company. When he began working on a bench torch Jim continued to use the same glass, but he grew increasingly dissatisfied with the stock colors, and the lack of naturalistic detail found in typical fusing and torch-work methods.

“It’s purely an personal aesthetic for me or maybe I’m just a control freak. I couldn’t use the stock colors. I had to create my own colors and my own way to produce natural flowing detail that just isn’t possible with stock colors. I wanted the look of polished stone or agate.”

Jim spent more than four years experimenting with various glass inclusions such as gold, copper, mica, and enamels. He





was finally able to develop controllable and repeatable processes, producing the level of detail he considers good enough for this first series.

Producing a mixed media series was not his original goal. Jim originally explored using fused glass in updated Mission style furniture which he was designing, but become disinterested in the business side of producing one-of-a-kind furniture pieces.



After purchasing a wood lathe it became clear that turning objects on the lathe was going to become the catalyst of what he had been heretofore unconsciously working towards. Suddenly his drawings had found a quick means to form. And when looking back at the spherical shapes within his completed wood sculptures it all fell into place that he had been on a sojourn of *Circular Obsessions*.



This series represents a significant investment of time, energy, money, and perseverance. Building the physical space for the glass studio and wood shop as well as equipping it was fairly expensive. Because of Jim's employment in the Information Technology field he was able to pursue his explorations without undo pressure for financial gain from the work.

"I never thought in terms of selling the work, that is, how many to make and how fast in order to turn a profit. It was purely an aesthetic journey for me, and on some level a self indulgence in pursuing a vision with minimal constraints."

Over time Jim has developed various skills in glass, wood, and casting, but remains reluctant to pursue a career in the arts. He identifies himself more as a designer than an artist, and feels his *objets d'art* are just that - objects of artistic merit., created without the inhibitions or self consciousness which can occur when purposefully setting out to create art.

"It is as though I really didn't make these objects. I can't explain why their form, shape, color, and texture is what it is. I put the materials together

giving them form, but the impetus eludes me. I can't claim to be following an artistic direction or participating in a sculptural genre. There is no social statement, and no driving expression or meaning. I was simply compelled to make them as an aesthetic response to something internal and hidden from examination."

The feeling that he doesn't 'own' these works is an unusual point of view for an artist/designer, but has led him to a conclusion that is consistent but also unusual. Jim feels that these works should be sold for the benefit of nonprofit organizations.

He would like to earn enough money from the sales to continue the series, but the majority of the proceeds he feels should benefit others.



Jim has several sketchbooks full of designs which could be fabricated if this series sells well. It is his way to give back to the community especially in these hard financial times.

"I've been very fortunate in my IT career and in having the time and resources to pursue these adventures in glass, bronze and wood. To make the journey complete I would be honored in providing art enthusiasts with unique objects, and for both of us to see the proceeds forwarded onto a worthy cause."

The Circular Obsession series was recently chosen to be featured in an article and on the front cover of the Fall 2009 edition of Sculptural Pursuits magazine. Jim hopes this national attention will help complete his journey.

Current projects are focused on exploring new techniques to be used in glass panels. He is also looking to integrate his love of photography, glass and his new found interest in enameling. Jim is planning a series of wall hangings incorporating all three media on structural steel frames.

If you would like to learn more about Circular Obsessions detailed descriptions are available at his site.

jimbolesdesigns.com/sculptureGalleries.html

Jim's blog posts cover his nonprofit aspirations as well as up to date information on his newest aesthetic adventures.

<http://www.jimbolesdesigns.blogspot.com>

You can contact Jim by email at

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ATLAS

Measures - 18 inch diameter by 13 length., 30 lbs.

Metal Marble - The spherical objects on the ends of Atlas are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels.

Copper Plate - A 1/8 inch thick copper plate separates the two halves representing the cosmos. It was stylized using various cutting and texturing tools.

Bronze Casting - The main body is cast bronze. A wood turning was used as the original from which the mother mold was made. Two castings were made for the top and bottom.

Wood Turning - In addition to the turning for the mother mold, one end of Atlas has a turned object made from cherry which was stained to look like the patina bronze of the main body.





SYNGAMY

Measures - 18 inch diameter by 33 Length., 16 lbs.

Metal Marbles - Two spherical objects on either end are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels.

Gametes - There are 32 torch-worked glass "gametes" which are fired onto copper rods and have heavily treated reduced/oxidized metal surfaces.

Outer Ring - The outer ring is a lathe turned solid surface material called Coppermine manufactured by the Avonite company.

Inner Disk - The center disk is fused iridescent glass.

End Cones - On either end are cones of another solid surface material called Corian. These cones have been copper plated and patinae applied.





ARIES

Measures - 21 inch diameter by 16 Length., 14 lbs.

Cherry Wood - Single piece of cherry formed from a log with chain saw, angle grinder and hand tools.



BOHR

Measures - 16 inch diameter by 22 length., 60 lbs.

Metal Marbles - Two spherical objects on either end are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels..

Inner Ring - The inner ring is cast bronze, and inside the bronze ring is a 1 1/4 inch thick cast glass ring .

Outer Ring - The outer most ring is a 1/2 inch piece of fused glass. This ring runs completely through the center of the sculpture.

End Cones - On either end are cones of a solid surface material called Corian. These cones have been copper plated and patinae applied.

Center Body - Under each end cone and running through the rings is lathe turned cherry wood.



TAIJITU

Measures - 17 inch diameter, 50 lbs.

Top - Single piece of cherry wood. Carved with chain saw and smoothed with wood block planes. Hand carvings on top done with various power tools.

Bottom - Cast bronze. The top served as the mold for the bottom. Once a mold from the top was taken it was used to form and support the wax as it was hand carved. The wax was then encased in casting investment and used in the casting process.





AEON

Measures - 21 inch diameter by 9 Length., 19 lbs.

Metal Marbles - Two spherical objects in the center are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels..

Cast Iron Ring - The center ring is an antique cast iron heating registrar manufactured by the Adams company whose patent stamp on the piece dates 1897.

Copper bowl - The central housing for the marbles is a copper bowl which has gold leaf applied.

Glass Disk - The outer glass ring is fused glass with a solid copper sheet sandwiched by glass on both sides. Gold mica and chromium based frit glass add gold and green detailing.





NAUTICA

Measures - 16 inch diameter by 28 Length., 20 lbs.

Top & Bottom - Lathe turned cherry wood, Texturized and stained.

Center Ring - Fused glass with copper inclusion mica and gold leaf. The outer band is a copper cable.



PAWN

Measures - 34 inch height by 12 by 12., 15 lbs.

Cherry Wood - Hand carved using various tools.
Maple burl accent seen below.



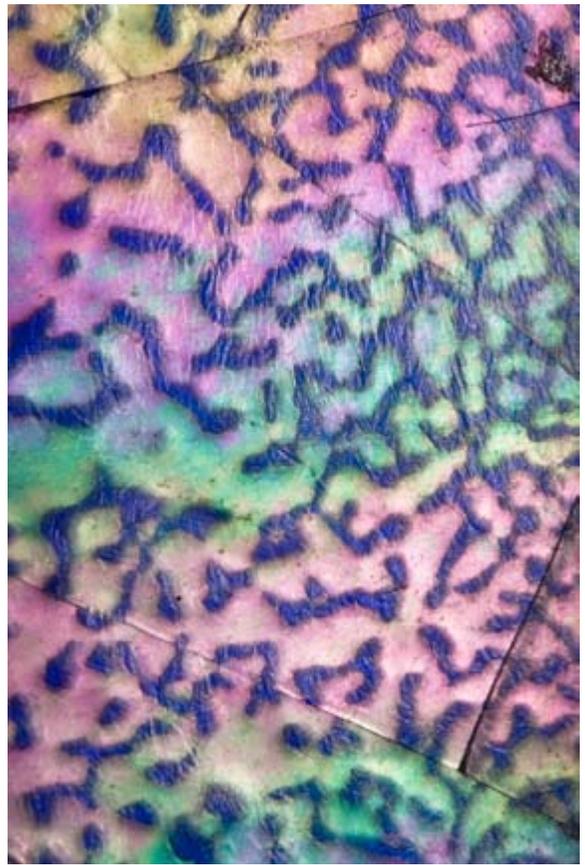
SHIVA

Measures - 12 inch diameter, 14 length, 5 lbs.

Metal Marbles - Two spherical objects at both ends are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels.

Center Disk - Fused glass lace, on divitrified float glass and iridescent glass.

Center Support - Lath turned wood, stained black with gold leaf accent.





PEARL

Measures - 21 inch diameter by 9 Length., 19 lbs.

Metal Marbles - Two spherical objects in the center are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels..

Cast Iron Ring - The center ring is an antique cast iron heating registrar manufactured by the Adams company whose patent stamp on the piece dates 1897.

Copper bowl - The central housing for the marbles is a copper bowl which has gold leaf applied.

Glass Disk - The outer glass ring is fused glass with a solid copper sheet sandwiched by glass on both sides. Gold mica and chromium based frit glass add gold and green detailing.





THESIS

Measures - 16 inch diameter by 28 Length., 35 lbs.

Metal Marbles - The top spherical object in the center are Metal Marbles. Metal Marbles are torch-worked glass with various inclusions such as copper, gold, and enamels

Center Ring - Cast iridescent glass. The rings are composed of thousands of small pieces of iridescent glass fused together in an open face mold.

Outer Ring - Copper tubing.

Bottom Cone - Clear cast glass with Metal Marble inclusion.

Body - Turned wood, copper plated, with patena.



TARGE I Wall Hanging

Measures - 22 inch diameter., 10 lbs.

Outer Ring - Kilnformed glass with copper, mica and other inclusions.

Center Ring - Cast iron found object.





PYROSUTRA Wall Hanging

Measures - 5 foot by 28 inches, 55 lbs.

Panels - Kilnformed glass with copper.

Structural Steel Frame



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