

Debra Dowden-Crockett – Artist Bio/Curriculum Vitae

Norfolk, VA 23518

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Debra Dowden-Crockett is a glass and metal artist with a studio in Norfolk, VA. Debra has been working with glass, sculpting and painting with it in the torch since 2005, continually challenging and sharpening her skills. Her focus on metals has been more recent and in 2008 she started combining the two in the creation of wearable art jewelry and sculpture.

Debra graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. degree in Philosophy. She minored in Chemistry, where she was first introduced to glass. In 2008, she was selected as a resident glass artist at The Workhouse, a complex of artist studios and galleries in Lorton, VA. In September 2010, she was selected as an Artist in Residence at the prestigious Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood, WA. In the spring of 2011, Debra completed her first metalworking course at Old Dominion University under the instruction of Diane deBeixedon. Most recently, she completed an Artist in Residence program at Penland School of Crafts in February 2012.

Debra is a member of the Peninsula Glass Guild, the Glass Art Society, the International Society of Glass Beadmakers, the Society of North American Goldsmiths, the National Capital Art Glass Guild, the Norfolk Botanical Garden, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Chrysler Museum of Art.

Select Exhibitions, Awards, and Recognition

- Featured Artist, *Flowers in Art: Contemporary International Artists*, Cindy Ann Coldiron, January 2012, Schiffer Publishing
- Juried Exhibition in *Print*, Gothic Jewelry, "Metalsmith" Magazine, August 2012
- Bead Dreams, 1st Place in Lampworking/Glass Category, 2012, "Bead & Button Magazine", Kalmbach Publishing Company
- Peninsula Glass Guild 24th Annual Juried Exhibition, December 10, 2011 – January 22, 2012, The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, Hampton, VA, Awarded Honorable Mention for Glass Sculpture "Fragility and Strength" by Juror Charlotte Potter, Glass Studio Manager, The Chrysler Museum
- The Craft Show at the Academy Art Museum, Easton, MD, October 21-23, 2011
- "Convergence III", International Society of Glass Beadmakers, International Traveling Exhibition, August 2011 – ongoing
- Surface, International Society of Glass Beadmakers, Traveling Exhibition, July 2011
- Creative Crafts Council Biennial Juried Exhibition, May 28, 2011 - July 9, 2011, THE MANSION AT STRATHMORE, North Bethesda, MD
- Solo Exhibition at the Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk, VA, May – September 2011
- New Waves 2011, Annual Juried Exhibition, February 10, 2011 – March 13, 2011, The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia, Virginia Beach, VA

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- Peninsula Glass Guild 23rd Annual Juried Exhibition, December 11, 2010 – January 23, 2011, The Charles H. Taylor Arts Center, Hampton, VA, Awarded Honorable Mention for Glass Sculpture “Ring Around the Posies” by Juror Tina Oldknow, Curator of Modern Glass, The Corning Museum of Glass
- "Convergence II", International Society of Glass Beadmakers, International Traveling Exhibition, August 2010 - ongoing
- Bead Dreams, Finalist in Lampworking/Glass Category, 2010, “Bead & Button Magazine”, Kalmbach Publishing Company
- Buyers Market of American Craft (The Rosen) Show, February 12-15, 2010, Philadelphia, PA
- Selected as a Resident Glass Artist, 2008-2009, The Workhouse, Lorton Arts Foundation, Lorton, VA
- 2008 Bead Arts Award, 1st and 2nd Place, Featured in 2008 November/December issue of "Step by Step Beads", Interweave Press
- Juried Exhibition, August 18 - September 30, 2007, "Once Upon a Bead", Catskills Mountain Foundation Gallery, Hunter, NY
- Featured Artist, *Australian Beading*, Premiere Edition, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2007, Universal Publications
- Juried Exhibition, December 1 - December 30, 2006, "Celebrating Craft", Rossdhu Gallery, Chevy Chase, MD
- Guest Artists Exhibition, December 9, 2006, Lorton Arts Foundation, Lorton, VA
- Juried Exhibition, September 30 - November 12, 2006, "Once Upon a Bead", Catskills Mountain Foundation Gallery, Hunter, NY

Artist Statement

My love for glass began in college as a chemistry student, where I was required to take glassblowing classes to create equipment for experiments. Much to my professor's dismay, I began my own experiments - creating sticks, pods, flowers, leaves and other non-scientific objects. My love for all things shiny and colorful has been life-long and has led me in the creation of wearable art glass and sculpture reflecting my thoughts and artistic vision.

Using my torch to gently coax glass into shape and to capture intricate details, I follow each inspiration and passion in duplicating the colors, shapes, and complexity I find all around me. Each piece seems to have its own personality, not only through the creative process, but as a final work of art. My objective for my work is to offer a means of communication between the created piece and observer and to reveal a message that is personal to each participant in this exchange.