

GALLERY HUNT Celebrate the Art of Glass

Humans began using glass over 3,000 years ago. Most glass starts as silica, commonly known as sand or quartz. When silica is heated, it becomes liquid and shapeable. Chemicals can be added to glass to make it harder or to change how it looks. Glassblowing is an art that is believed to have started as early as the 1st century BCE. Visit the VMFA galleries to discover ancient and modern techniques used to make glass forms, vessels, beads, and other functional objects.



American Art Galleries, Level 2

In the 17th century, artists began adding the chemical lead oxide to melted glass. This new element, combined with the heated glass, allowed for a longer cooling period so artists had more time to shape the glass. *What type of event would you use this punch bowl for?* _____



Ancient Art Galleries, Level 2

Glass vessels are created by attaching a melted blob of glass to one end of a tube, then blowing into the other side of the tube and inflating the glass at the other end until it cools and hardens into the shape you see now. It's like blowing up a balloon! *What liquid would you store in this vessel?* _____



African Art Galleries, Level 2

The Yoruba people of Ghana create glass beads by grinding up old glass bottles and pouring the powder into molds. Glass beads were reserved for the most important members of society because they were expensive to produce. *Who do you think wore this robe?* _____



Art Deco Galleries, Level 3

Favrile glass is known for its iridescent—or shiny—colors. This type of glass borrows its name from the Latin word *fabrillis*, which means made by hand. *Look at how the colors change with the light. How many different colors do you see?* _____



Art Deco Galleries, Level 3

These leaded-glass windows were created using a tool called a soldering iron, which melts the hot lead between the shapes. When the metal cools it hardens, joining the pieces together as if they were glued! These windows were created for a child's playhouse. *What room would you hang these windows in?* _____