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Blown Away

Glass artist Annie Morhauser celebrates 26 years of revolutionizing the world of luxury tableware.

Artist Annie Morhauser was just 19 when she took her first glass-blowing class at the California College of Arts. “I was hooked,” remembers the artist. Following graduation in 1979, she got right down to business and founded the internationally renowned company Annieglass. Reflecting on the company’s 26 years of success, she says, “Glass blowing has always been just different enough to keep me interested.”

Morhauser’s creations themselves—thick, luxurious dishes and tableware—were just different enough to interest businesses like Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus. Their New York stores began selling her work with great success in the ‘80s. “There has never really been any fine glass dinnerware in America,” Morhauser explains. “We had to build our own niche for that. You never saw glass tableware in the chinaware section of a department store before.” Now, Morhauser’s collections can be seen, added to bridal registries, or purchased in many of the finest department stores across the country, with a few items even on display in the Smithsonian and other museums.



Annie Morhauser

For many of her Annieglass pieces, Morhauser draws inspiration from nature. “I’ll see something that sticks with me, such as an orchid, then will keep it in my memory bank,” she explains. “I never know what I’m going to do with it, but I know I’ll make something out of it.” Morhauser channels these inspirations into glass pieces at her studio in Santa Cruz, where she lives and works. “The Bay Area is a great place to be,” she adds. “I know I could never do this anywhere else. People here are so supportive of new ideas.”

Her favorite piece? “That’s like asking which of your kids you like the best!” she laughs. But, she will admit that she loves her Cone Vase and her Shell Series of dishes. A new Annieglass collection, Arabella, will be out in stores this fall. www.annieglass.com ➔

—LINDSAY SCHAUER