



PCA, Inc

San Antonio, Texas May 2003

Jim Brown

Birds of A Feather: *Millefiore*

I. Interest:

A. Collector first - most intrigued by lamp work of Buzzi, Ayotte, Stankard. Bought everything I could find - not very discriminating at that time.

B. Wife Denise grew up in Vineland, New Jersey so visited Wheaton Village whenever possible. Very inspirational.

II. History:

A. Spent 10 yrs in Navy - traveled throughout the Pacific

Was exposed to many different cultures and developed an appreciation for their traditions and art.

B. Worked in manufacturing nearly 20 yrs as mechanical engineer making golf balls (Important work!), entry doors and National Geographic Magazine. Didn't feel appreciated so quit job and enrolled in the glass art program at Tennessee Tech. University (You need a REALLY understanding wife to do this!). Commute about an hour each way.

C. Spent most of first year (2000) learning to keep glass on the end of a pipe/punty. Slightly out of place in terms of age, taste in music and volume of same, number of body piercings, etc. Have access to hot shop only 6-9 hours per week. If all my hot shop time were condensed into 40 hour weeks I will have been working in glass only about 5-6 months. Glass is frequently "seedy". Curtis Brock provides and encourages an environment of growth and exploration. Art is heavily stressed as well as craft. I feel fortunate to have that facility so close to home.

D. In late 2000 I pulled my first rudimentary cane - I was hooked. It was only a simple white tube but my active imagination now had an irresistible springboard. I could not and still cannot stop. I have a notebook full of unrealized ideas. I'll never have time to accomplish all.

E. I'm inspired by the millefiori weights of Bacchus, Baccarat, St. Louis and Clichy. I hope someday to make weights which are compared favorably with these.

III. Process: Show slides and narrate process.

A. Pull cane, re-pull complex cane

B. Compose setup

C. Encase setup

D. Cold-work, facet

IV. Conclusion:

A. Someday lamp work, but for now must explore millefiori more fully.

B. I make one of a kind. Maybe some very limited editions in future.

C. My passion, goal is to make "masterpieces". Therapeutic for me.

D. Art or craft? I don't have time for that discussion. In the end it's going to be your decision anyway.

E. Thanks!!!!

