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Cheryl Sattler sands down sharp edges on glass artwork at her studio in Quincy in 2012.



Artist burns Florida gleam into **GLASS**

AMANDA SIERADZKI
COUNCIL ON CULTURE & ARTS

Glass artist Cheryl Sattler has been called everything from “artsy-craftsy” to “mentally ambidextrous.” She appreciates the intricacies of making glass into art but is always seeking new and thrilling challenges.

While mounting her portion of a two-person art exhibition with watercolorist Penny G. Anderson at the Artport Gallery, Sattler’s attentions are simultaneously devoted to glass and studying for her law degree. Currently, she’s enrolled in law school in hopes of bolstering her ability to make a difference in her career working on federal education for districts and schools.



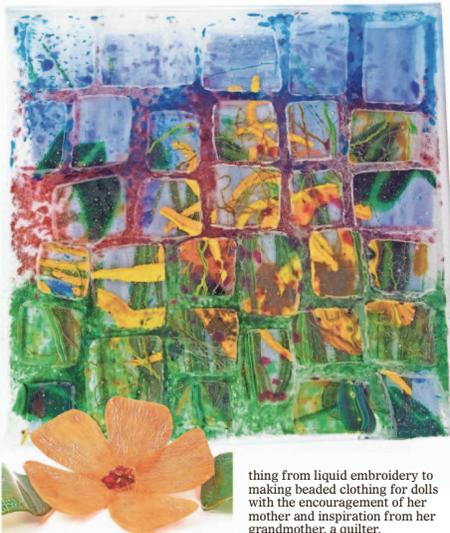
“I’m willing to kick down any barrier I have to,” says Sattler. “I think the things that are worth doing, generally, are hard. I value that because I get restless and I don’t like to repeat myself.”

Few mediums other than glass best live up to the reputation of difficulty, and according to Sattler, that’s what keeps her interested. Inherently linked with the aesthetics of color, value, shape, and form, she enjoys figuring out how to work with huge machines like the kiln, and the challenge of not only imagining what to create but how to go about making it.

She’s sheared a nerve in her finger and been burnt many times, but continuously returns to the kiln for processes that can take any number of days, weeks, or months. She jokes that while it’s not like an “easy bake oven,” diligence and patience are key in being a successful glass artist.

“I always tell people blood burns off in the kiln,” Sattler says with a smile. “And so do sweat and tears because there’s a lot of those, too.”

From a young age, Sattler always enjoyed experimenting with every-



PHOTOS BY MIKA FOWLER/SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT
TOP: Cheryl Sattler pieces glass together in Summer Quilt. **ABOVE:** Sattler’s orange flower with leaves is part of the “Luminosity” exhibit at the Artport Gallery.

IF YOU GO

What: Luminosity: Artworks by Penny G. Anderson & Cheryl Sattler
When: 8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., daily, through Aug. 14
Where: The Artport Gallery, 3300 Capital Circle SW
Cost: Free
Contact: For more information please call 850-224-2500 or visit www.coca.tallahassee.org/art-in-public-places/artport-gallery.

‘Harold and Maude’ dark and beautiful



Mark Hinson
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

When director Hal Ashby’s radically altered romantic comedy “Harold and Maude” hit movie theaters way back in the early ‘70s, the audiences were confused and the critics were downright cranky.

The love story between a suicide-obsessed, 20-ish rich boy and a spunky, 79-year-old Holocaust survivor was described as having “all the fun and gaiety as a burning orphanage,” according to Variety magazine.

Ouch. Roger Ebert had this to say in his review in 1972: “Death can be as funny as most things in life, I suppose, but not the way Harold and Maude go about it.”

Ebert gave it one and a half stars. Pauline Kael, who was the most influential film critic of the ‘70s thanks to her post at The New Yorker magazine, shrugged and said, “Even if this idea strikes you as immensely comic, you might well want to miss Hal Ashby’s ‘Harold

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Glass

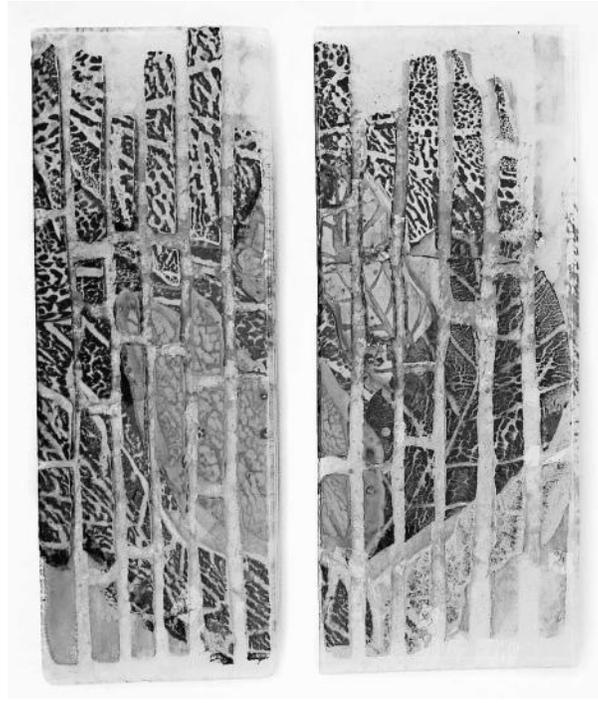
Continued from Page 1D

ed to bring the beads home to show her husband but instead learned a valuable lesson about the cooling process when her fish lost their fins and lips during the car ride home.

"I knew two things after that class—that I would never again make something that small and that I would always work in glass," says Sattler. "I also learned that it will be done when it's done and that it takes the time that it takes."

After falling in love with glass, she began attending more workshops given by master teachers such as Steve Klein and Nancy Wisner. These mentors taught her not only how to use art to express an idea, but how to operate the machinery and use cutting edge techniques. Some of Sattler's teachers have also been scientists, such as Bob Leatherbarrow, a geologist turned glass artist, and Tony Smith, a professor at MIT who taught her how to sandblast.

"Glass is a very smart medium and is always pushing the boundaries," says Sattler. "I feel like in glass I



MIKA FOWLER/SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Cheryl Sattler: "Art is something that takes you away from the moment and lets you have a daydream."

can never know it all and I love that."

When it comes to her creative process, Sattler says momentum takes hold and her works often come together quickly. She first turns to her sketchbook and scenes like botanical landscapes or the ocean, then takes the time to make hundreds of glass components so that she has a multitude of objects to work with when putting together a larger piece. Sattler says she

mostly works figuratively but enjoys the many interpretations viewers receive from her pieces.

"I made this mangrove scene once and my friend looked at it and said she could imagine they were giraffes," says Sattler. "My work is very thick so I will layer things and then fuse it all at once. I also want to leave room for it to move in the kiln and let it do its magic moving under the heat."

On the subject of

impactful public art, Sattler says she has been known to sweet talk security guards on her own travels across the country just to snap a photo of striking art pieces in airports.

For the show, "Luminosity," at the Artport Gallery in Tallahassee International Airport, Sattler wants to grab travelers' attention as they pass through the terminal. The exhibition will be on display daily through Aug. 14 and includes glass works that aim to capture a wild "life force" within Sattler's vibrant external and internal landscapes.

"Art is something that takes you away from the moment and lets you have a daydream, and I would hope that people who come to Tallahassee have that same moment," remarks Sattler. "I wanted the glass to have that feeling of Florida, full of hot colors and things that don't happen anywhere else. I want people's minds to be taken there with something that makes you feel a certain way."

Amanda Sieradzki is the feature writer for the Council on Culture & Arts. COCA is the capital area's umbrella agency for arts and culture (www.tallahasseearts.org).

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