

OBJECT of the month *September 2022*



BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Thank you for joining this 'Object of the Month'. In this video, let's explore a unique glass artwork from the Dayton Art Institute collection. Take a good look. Feel free to pause the video if you would like.

What strikes you as unique or interesting about it? Perhaps the graceful shape and form? The vibrant bursting forth of the many colors? Consider the process behind this artwork. Might it be blown glass that has been painted? And if so, are those brilliant colors brushstrokes?

Here we have *Fleeing Chaos*, a work from artist "Toots" Mary Ann Zynsky's "Chaos" series, completed while the artist was living abroad in Paris. There is a multi-color palette that includes warm colors interspersed with complements of cool colors, accented by shades of black and white. So, who or what is fleeing in this artwork? The cool colors or the warm ones? Or are they all working together to escape?

The glass thread technique starts with a single glass rod, melted and stretched to produce 32 kilometers of flexible thread. Thousands and thousands of glass threads are placed by the artist on a heat-resistant fiberboard. This mass of threads is placed in a kiln that fuses it into a solid yet pliable mass. Once the glass threads are fused, the solid mass is removed from the fiberboard and returned to the kiln multiple times for a series of shaping and slumping to create the final work.

DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Toots Zynsky attended Rhode Island School of Design in the early 1970s. Unsure if she would continue after her freshman year, she discovered a yet-introduced spin-off of the ceramic department, a workshop with loud music, a roaring fire and movement of teams of people working in concert in the unexplored medium of glass. This greatly inspired the artist, who has said, “when I hear music, it translates to colors”.

While a student under Dale Chihuly, Zynsky was invited to Washington to help in the founding of the Pilchuck Glass School. In 1980, Zynsky returned to the New York Experimental Glass Workshop. It was here she began her work completing fused nets of glass thread. Originally pulling threads from glass rods by hand, Zynsky worked with a Dutch artist to develop an electronic glass thread pulling machine. This was the breakthrough in her technique she named “filet de verre” as it led to her distinct heat-formed vessels, a unique exploration in color.

Fleeing Chaos is a work one must not miss, so I welcome you to visit the DAI to search out this vibrant work of art in the Eileen Dicke Gallery of Glass, Gallery 123. Stay tuned and check back soon for next month’s ‘Object of the Month’.

END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) to access the video presentation.

FEATURED ARTWORKS*

“Artist Uses Glass Thread to Create Luminous Vessels.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Voice of America, January 29, 2020, <https://youtu.be/CZanUITmrVc>

“Masters of Studio Glass: Toots Zynsky.” *YouTube*, uploaded by Corning Museum of Glass, February 15, 2011, <https://youtu.be/IVKO8Jpup48>

Luca Foglia, *Toots Zynsky*, chromogenic print. Image via networksrhodeisland.org

Mary Van Cline, Portrait of Toots Zynsky, from “Documenta”. Image via urbanglass.org

Toots Zynsky (American, born 1951), *Copioso*, 2014, filet-de-verre fused and thermos-formed colored glass threads. Image courtesy of the artist © Toots Zynsky

Toots Zynsky, Dale Chihuly, and Italo Scanga, Pilchuck Glass School, Stanwood, Washington, 1981. Image via twitter.com © Chihuly Studio

Toots Zynsky (American, born 1951), *Pajaritos en la Cabeza* and *Cabellos de Angel*, from “Tierra del Fuego” series, 1988, fused and kiln-formed filts de verre. Corning Museum of Glass, NY. 3rd Rakow Commission, purchased with funds from the Juliette K. and Leonard S. Rakow Endowment Fund, 88.3.45.A-.B

MEDIA CREDITS*

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QUESTIONS? edu@daytonart.org