



Donna K. W. Branch

PRESS RELEASE

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LOS ANGELES CALLING.....HGTV TO AIR SEGMENT ON DONNA BRANCH'S GLASS STUDIO PROCESS IN 2008

"Los Angeles calling!!" were the words that Donna Branch, a McCalla, Alabama artist, heard from her husband in mid November of 2006, as he called her to the phone from her glass studio one night.

From Portland Maine to Portland, Oregon, and all points in between, the Home and Garden Television show, "*That's Clever*", in its' fourth season, searches the USA for unique artists that they can profile for their audience. The producers of the show visit and film the artist creating their work in studio. In each episode, three contemporary artists are featured. Previous projects have ranged from glasswork, quilting, knitting, ceramics, metalwork, leather, woodwork and mixed media.

Donna Branch, of McCalla, Alabama hosted an HGTV film crew from the "*That's Clever*" show on December 11, 2006 in her McCalla studio. Branch's application was selected for filming, from among many others, because of the detailed casting and carving process involved in creating her unique glass pieces which are described as cast, kilnformed, carved with *enchiso battuto*, sandblasted and

acid-etched. The competitive applications were sent to artists through local Alabama arts organizations; HGTV called Donna, conducted a phone interview, then made the decision to visit her Alabama studio.

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HGTV to McCalla Alabama Studio

Donna Branch says of her work, "My work is informed by patterns of color, form, and texture, which occur ordinarily in nature, with such ease of simplicity, without artificiality, or constraint, that they heighten my sense of the mystery and spiritualism I continually find in the natural world around me. By exploring these elements, I continue to seek the graceful, yet powerful, nature of something that is much larger than me; something I cannot comprehend.

My compositions, explore color, light, texture, and depth using several traditional casting, lampworking and carving techniques. Texture is imparted by use of *inchiso & battuto*, carving techniques achieved by use of a lathe and a diamond wheel. By exploring *battuto* I discovered ways to highlight elements such as color and light refraction. *Battuto* gives an unexpected visual and tactile characteristic to the glass and complements the simple forms I create. Depth produced by the "honeycombing" of the glass and manipulation of the carving directs the viewer's attention to areas of light, depth, color or pattern. All of these convey my wonder in the smallest detail.

Donna Branch's glass work has been exhibited in group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout the United States, including "*Spotlight, American Craft Council Southeast Region Juried Exhibition*"; Montgomery Art Museum, Montgomery, Alabama; *The Red Clay Survey*, Huntsville, Alabama Museum of Art, *Glass Now* Invitational, National Liberty Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Alder Fine Art Gallery, Coberg, Oregon. In addition, her work is in many private collections.

As the recipient of numerous awards and honors, she has received the honor of a Juror Award from noted art critic Susan Knowles, who writes for *Art Papers*, *Number*, and *Sculpture*; and Juror Awards from Faith Ringgold in "*Appalachian Corridors*", Juried Exhibition, Avampato Museum in Charleston, West Virginia.

Several publications have featured Donna's work including the *Huntsville Times*, *Birmingham News*, and *Birmingham* magazine. Her work will be featured in

upcoming features in *Southern Living* magazine, October 2007, and on the *HGTV Television Network* in 2008.

Donna Branch was born in Birmingham, Alabama. She received a B. S. Degree from the University of Alabama Birmingham, an M.A. degree from Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama, and has studied at the Studios of the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York.