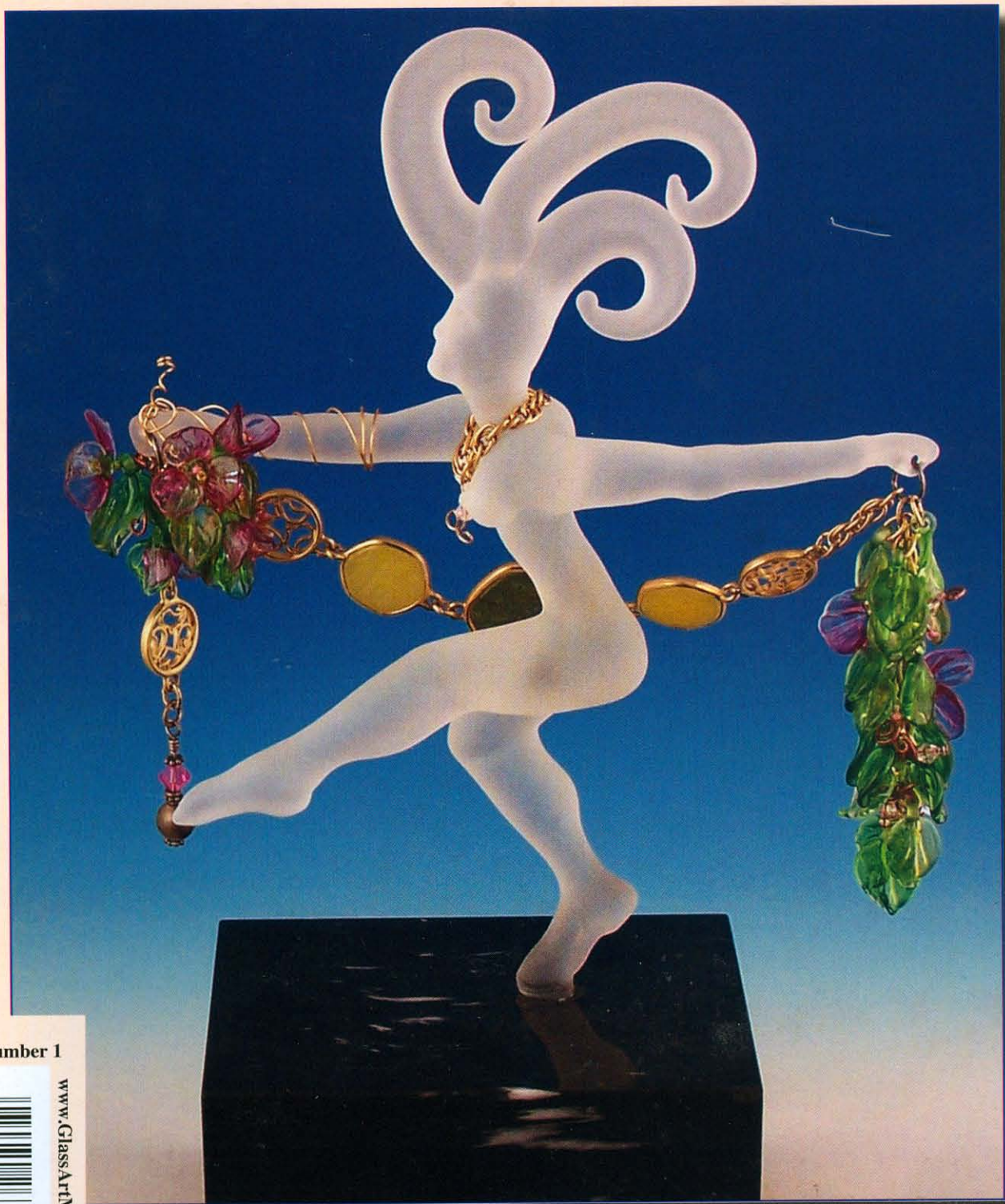


GLASS ART

The Magazine for the Art Glass Industry

January/February 2012



\$7.00 U.S.
Volume 27 Number 1

www.GlassArtMagazine.com



Glass Countertops from ThinkGlass— Bringing Eco-chic Beauty to the Kitchen

by Shelly Johnson

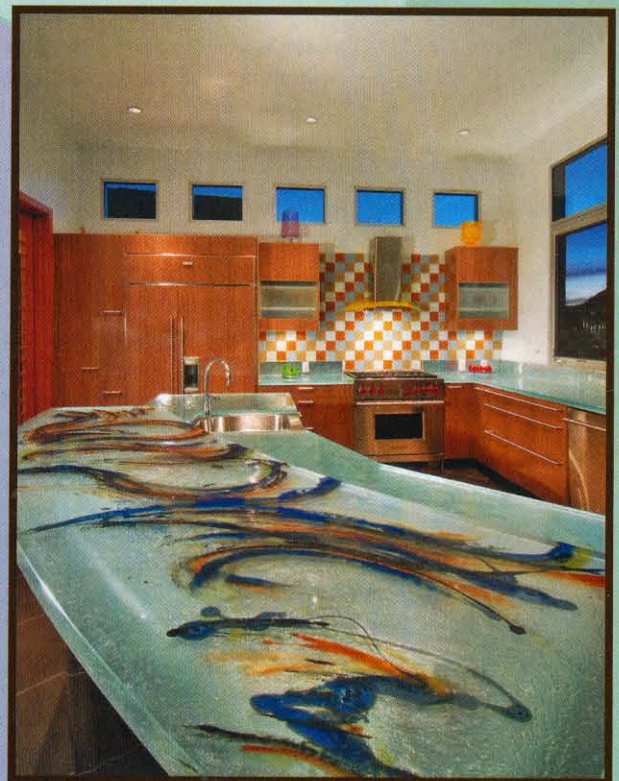
Photography Courtesy of ThinkGlass

The ThinkGlass story began 11 years ago in an empty room under the leadership of two creative individuals who were passionate about beautiful glasswork. Today, the company is one of the most successful glass design and manufacturing studios in the world with a shop that encompasses more than 30,000 square feet, 27 employees, and 17 state-of-the-art, custom-made ovens. ThinkGlass is still headed by its two original founders, glass master Michel Mailhot, who is the artistic soul of the company, and Bertrand Charest, a certified engineer and company president. Together with their talented team, they produce all manner of glass masterpieces, from residential kitchen and bathroom vanity countertops and backsplashes to fantastic sculptures, wall murals, and floor tiles. They have also designed large-scale commercial projects for restaurants, nightclubs, and offices.

Using Green Manufacturing Practices

ThinkGlass, an acclaimed glass design and manufacturing studio headquartered just outside of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, follows green manufacturing practices and uses the latest technology and sustainable practices to create a breathtaking array of custom glass countertops that will literally transform any home. All ThinkGlass creations contain 25 percent pre-consumer recycled content and are made from 100 percent recyclable glass. The forethought and attention to detail is evident in the fact that there is never use of any adhesive or sealant that might contain potentially harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Any scrap glass created during the manufacturing process is recycled. Rainwater operates glass-cutting equipment, and transportation crates are made from deadwood to avoid cutting healthy trees.

As a leader in the thermoforming industry, ThinkGlass has pioneered a versatile technique that allows the creation of new or repetitive textures at a very low molding cost. This process allows the company to create glass slabs without thickness constraints and opens the door to all kinds of design possibilities. This new process allows customers to break free from the mass-market humdrum of granite or marble and lets their creativity soar with glass kitchen countertops that are as stunningly beautiful as they are durable.





Environmentally Friendly Designs

A remarkable blend of function and art, glass countertops are the hottest trend in kitchen design. Their high-end appearance makes a definitive style statement, yet they require no maintenance and are one of the most environmentally friendly countertop options available. Each countertop is unique and is available in a huge selection of molded textures and hand-painted colors. Customers can select their glass thickness and countertop edges, which can be finished in a polished, textured, or brushed treatment. The slab itself can be produced in 10 standard textures or a custom texture. ThinkGlass countertops can even be lit with LEDs, in true white or a multicolor option, that can be programmed to change colors or remain on one color to further personalize the design. The end result is a smooth, glossy finish that is as strong and durable as any natural stone or man-made countertop material.

Although these countertops appear to have a delicate, almost ethereal beauty, they can easily withstand the demands of even the busiest homes. Virtually maintenance free, their textured finish hides fingerprints and scratches and is impossible to stain. Because glass is nonporous, it is naturally resistant to mold and mildew and requires no sealant, making it a healthy, hygienic choice.

G/A

Canada-based ThinkGlass Inc. employs a thermoforming process to create glass countertops with new or repetitive textures, blending function with art. ThinkGlass manufactures the glass countertops in Canada, but they are available for shipping anywhere in the United States. Visit www.thinkglass.com to find out more about this company's eco-friendly products.

© Copyright 2011 by Glass Art.
All rights reserved.