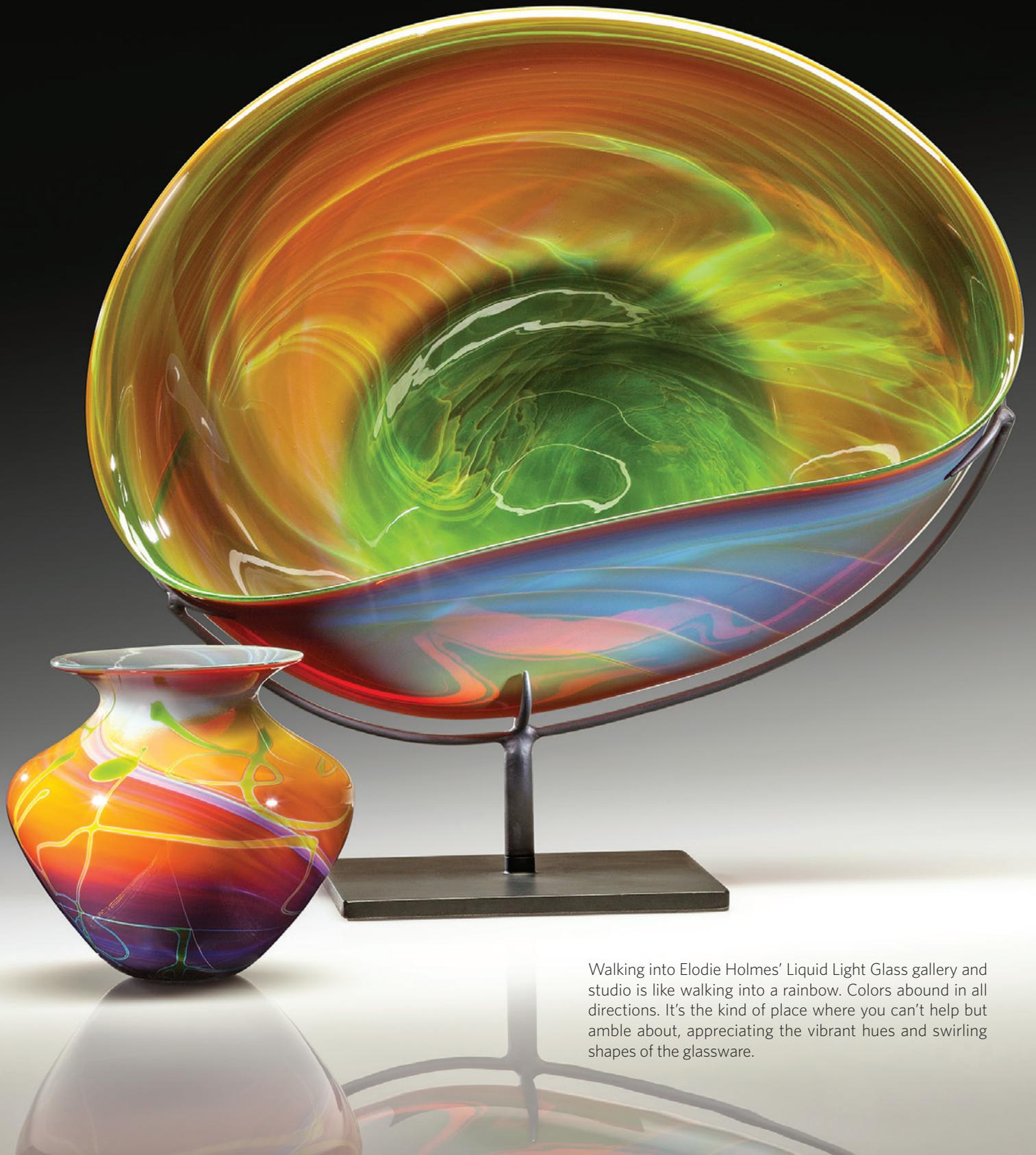


Elodie Holmes
BRINGS GLASS TO LIFE



Walking into Elodie Holmes' Liquid Light Glass gallery and studio is like walking into a rainbow. Colors abound in all directions. It's the kind of place where you can't help but amble about, appreciating the vibrant hues and swirling shapes of the glassware.

Holmes has been blowing glass for over 35 years. She came to Santa Fe in 1981 to run a glass shop on Canyon Road, and in 2000 bought the building on Baca Street where her gallery currently resides. As all her tenants are artists, she is pivotal in the little niche known as the Baca Street Art District. Hers is the only all-glass store in town, and her work is also sold at galleries and museum shops around the country.

Despite Holmes' illustrious work, to walk into Liquid Light Glass is to feel as if you are an old friend. Holmes and her staff are as unpretentious as the glass is gorgeous. If you happen to stop by at the right time, you might catch an impromptu glass blowing demonstration. For those interested in trying their own hand, Holmes and her staff offer limited classes. Beware though — the classes are quite popular and increasing in demand.

Passersby often lose themselves in the striking colors of Holmes' glass art. Her bestsellers are what she calls Aurora Sculptures, which mimic the aurora borealis. These bowl-like sculptures are mounted on swiveling stands so as to be admired from all angles.

Her customers are smitten by her uniquely effervescent use of color. "I make the colors from raw materials. The formula is very heat sensitive, based on an ancient Italian glass blowing technique called Calcedonia," she explains. "Metal oxides like gold, copper, cobalt or silver make the colors, and how much you heat it up and cool it down again determines the vibrancy. I do extra patterning that looks like stripes or peacock eyes. After I heat the glass back up, I lay it on a metal mold. The surface cools really fast where it touches the cold metal, and actually changes the color on contact. This way, I create extra layers in my designs."

Holmes is keen to share her glass passion with her community. She co-owns Prairie Dog Glass at Jackalope, where they host a mentorship program for high school students. They are also in the process of taking over New Mexico Experimental Glass Workshop, which will serve as a nonprofit umbrella from which to operate all the educational programs. Additionally, this December will be the 15th annual Baca Street



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Art District holiday tour. "It's about promoting community and accessibility," Holmes says.

Whether you're stopping by to purchase a sublime piece of glass art, to learn more about glass blowing or to become involved in the Baca Street art community, Holmes is the glass guru you're looking for. Her love of the

form and obvious skill make her much sought after, and her beautiful designs leave admirers breathless time and time again. ■

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