

Glass jewellery fires imagination of all

Glass jewellery, it would appear, is quickly firing the imagination of the young and the old alike. At an exhibition of art glass work organised by Anjali Venkat at her studio 'Anjali Design' in Besant Nagar this week, the jewellery section drew the maximum crowd.

For Anjali, who works magic with glass, the exhibition is an annual feature. But this year, the emphasis is more on the jewellery. "Glass jewellery is becoming very popular these days. Hence I have put more of these on display this time. I have also tried out a variety of techniques... combined stones, pearls etc for a different look," she says.

As visitors surround the table (it is actually Anjali's cutting table) on which the jewellery has been displayed and place orders, the artist says that the pieces — ear drops, necklaces, pendants etc — are suitable for teenagers as well as those over 40. "I think the older people are a bit tired of the regular jewellery and are looking for something different," she chuckles.

Besides the jewellery, Anjali creates showpieces and artefacts such as idols of Ganesha and Krishna, lamps, lamp shades and diyas. Diyas are a regular feature at her exhibitions as they are "in demand all the time and fits well at home." With



CREATIVE: Anjali Venkat with her glass articles. PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

Diwali fast approaching, she says she will have to workover time to meet the demand for the colourful diyas.

She also makes attractive bookends with sports themes (this time it is cricket, football and golf), serving platters and trays, light reflec-

tors and ornamental mirrors with floral motifs.

A speciality of hers is the recycling of old bottles. "The bottles are

heated and compressed through a process called slumping," she says. The end products are lovely bowls and trays that make for exquisite gifts.

A unique feature of her exhibition is that each item on display has been made entirely by the artist herself. Working at a kiln in her studio, she produces these warm glass work by heating glass up to 2500 deg F.

Magic at your fingertips

"You can work magic as long as you can control the flow. There are different techniques. With some creativity, you can always improvise and master the art," she quips. All the art glass that she uses are imported from the U.S.

Anjali also teaches her art to housewives and young girls. With flexible timings, the courses run for 10 days. She provides the materials and the tools. "What you make, you take home." She even holds two-day workshops where she teaches students to cut glass and to make sun catchers. "The art is very labour-intensive. So you must really be interested in it to learn the art glass work," she warns.

For more details, you can call Anjali Venkat at 98400 76492/4551 1170.

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