



Hues in glass

EXHIBITION Anjali Venkat takes ordinary glass and blows beautiful life into it

Anjali Venkat has a gleam in her eyes when she says, "I am good with the soldering iron. I have been doing such jobs since I was 10. You see, I have a steady hand." You look around her compact studio, run your eyes over the myriad objets d' art, the jewellery in their cases, and you have to agree. The woman does have a very steady hand indeed, and a very talented one, at that.

Anjali learned the art of designing with glass a decade ago and then, fine-tuned what she saw as a career, at glass workshops in Australia, at the Corning Museum of Glass, U.S. and in Norway. After which, she came back to Chennai and got down to melting, blowing, fusing, draping glass, to meld traditional glass working methods and materials with a creative wellspring, to design eye-catching accessories and artefacts.

It is, indeed, a splendid array, her glass babies. There are colourful wind mobiles and sun-catchers, their facets reflecting neon hues. There are candle stands and candle shelters, napkin holders, serving platters and trays in artful shapes, Tiffany-like lamp-

shades, tissue holders, jewel boxes, bric-a-brac, and some stunning pieces of art glass lamps, with bevelled panels. The hugely popular art glass jewellery table is loaded with cunningly wrought pendants, neckpieces and bracelets that combine glass with semi-precious stones and pearls, as well as some special pieces done using the Italian millefiori technique.

The lady makes it sound easy but its hard work, cutting, layering, firing the kiln to 1,500 degrees F before fashioning objects from glass. What's more, Anjali employs no assistants; every single piece is done by her. "But I love what I do," she exclaims, and the passion is evident. Samples of her work can be viewed at www.anjalidesign.com

Anjali Venkat is having an exhibition and sale of her new range in Art Glass at her studio on the 9th and 10th of October 2007, 10.30 am to 7 pm. The address is: H, 18/4, Arundale Beach Road, 3rd street, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar. Tel: 9840076492, 45511170.

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