Romancing GLASS

Anjali Venkat's Design Studio in Chennai showcases a dazzling array of functional glass in kaleidoscopic hues

Colourful glass jewellery

Exquisite glasswork

PHOTOGRAPHY: THIRD EYE

What: Anjali Venkat's Design Studio
Where: H 18/4, Arundale Beach Road, 3rd Street, Kalakshetra Colony, Besant Nagar, Chennai
Contact: 9840076492
What we saw: Hand-cut stained glass pieces soldered or fused into tableware, jewellery and home décor. In tune with the festive season are *diyas*, candle shelters and Ganeshas that double up as *diya* holders. There are lampshades with ceramic bases, tissue box holders with mosaic patterns and appliqué work using fused glass. Tableware includes napkin holders, platters and paper holders in slumped glass.

Also on offer is a collection of wearable art comprising *kadas*, bracelets, danglers, rings and pendants in dichroic glass. This collection was brilliant with rich hues, detailed gold decal work and landscape designs.

What we loved: The recycled wine bottles that were converted in into flat nut trays. Tiffany-style lamps in draped glass, especially the ivory and black ones, were worth another look. The small candle shelters in mosaic glass add a mesmerising glow to the flame. We also loved one of Anjali's new concepts—fan lamps with photo images of Tanjore paintings fused onto glass. Also worth a mention are the lightweight *kadas* with a hint of gold, danglers, pendants and rings with chunky glass stones.

What we heard: That her most sought-after pieces are *diyas*, candle shelters and fan lamps. Anjali, who also receives orders for work on door and window panels, says, "I like incorporating naturally available products like shells on to my work. For the panels, I use slices of agate."

Price points: Simple *diyas* start from Rs 130, while candle shelters are priced at Rs 450. The jewellery collection ranges from Rs 500 to Rs 2,000. Fan lamps cost Rs 1,600, wine bottles converted into nut trays are for Rs 450, and lamp shades start at Rs 1,000 and go upto Rs 8,000. ▮

—MYTHILY RAMACHANDRAN