

Glass artist Anjali Venkat turns old glass into 'functional art'. In a free-wheeling chat, she says, "My quest has been, and continues to be, about finding beauty in the unexpected. The challenge is to transform society's undesirable waste into something that is functional and aesthetically pleasing."



MY RAPID FIRE

I am inspired by...
Nature in all its glory

I would like to collaborate with...
An artist working with metal or stone. Combining glass with these should produce interesting results.

Decor must-have
Glass in any one of its forms



Anjali Venkat

Her fascination with art and glass has led to spectacular results

Feature **MEENAKSHI SHANKAR** Photographs **SHAMANTH PATIL J**

To reuse, recycle, recreate is in, and with good reason, given the limited resources we have left on our planet. And in our quest for art and design that's recycled, we stumbled upon someone whose work inspired us. A glass artist from Chennai who now calls Singapore her home, Anjali Venkat creates magic with her hands. Not only is her work boho-chic and funky, it's functional as well.

The talented artist says, "Glass is a difficult medium to work with. It has a mind of its own and the challenge is to be able to control and manipulate the material to do what you want it to. I have been working with glass for the last 17 years. I began with lamps and now experiment with different glass working techniques to create art."

Her famed creations include glass patchwork, wind dancers, wearable art glass. Anjali Venkat's design comes across as enchanting yet retains its simplicity.

Speaking of support, Anjali says that her family is the backbone of her creativity. "My husband and sons are accustomed to my ideas and work. In fact, my sons lend a hand while I am working. Since they have grown up watching me reuse everyday objects, they have also picked up the habit and try and do whatever they can," she says. She retails from her studio in Chennai where she customises certain pieces depending on individual preferences. "Converting someone's idea into glass work is almost bewitching," she adds.

The artist has managed to carve a niche for herself in the world of upcycling. An avid traveller, she finds her inspiration in nature and her glorious hues. She says, "I look around me. The colours, the play of light and shadows are a big source of inspiration for me. However, I am not a person who creates pretty and delicate things. My tastes are more graphic." ✱

To know more about Anjali Venkat's work, write to her at anjalidesign9@gmail.com.

