

# Classical glass

A THICK WARMTH ENCASES the Sherman Studio Art Center room where furnaces reach nearly 2,100 degrees and art majors practice their glassblowing techniques on this April day. At a workbench, sophomore Jacob Gricar grips a blowpipe, dropping water onto a tension point to quickly cool the glass where the decanter he’s made will separate from the pipe. With his solid, calculated tap on the rod, the

piece breaks cleanly from the blowpipe and into the fireproof gloves of senior Zach Pascoe. The “catcher” rushes the decanter to an annealing oven, where — to avoid cracks — the glass will slowly cool over the next day. Glassmaking is tedious, and it demands patience and discipline. But these students can speak of the rewards that come when they open the oven door to their handcrafted art. — KAYLIN HYNES ★



**NAT DEPALMA**  
SENIOR, STUDIO ART

“I like being able to construct something that is so intentional. I find a lot of comfort in that and going through all the steps. It’s very monotonous, but soothing in a way.”



**MADI CANO**  
JUNIOR, MARKETING AND ART

“My favorite part of the class is being able to enhance my skills and see the progression of my art. My first semester I made this little misshapen cup, and I was so proud of it. Now, you can see all these pieces we can make.”



Jacob Gricar, left, and Zach Pascoe define teamwork in an intermediate glassblowing class.

*Photos by Jo McCulty*



**IBRAHEEM BASREE**  
SENIOR, STUDIO ART

“I always have something new that I want to achieve — a new process, a new technique. Whatever it is, it keeps me motivated and coming to the shop every day.”



**JACOB GRICAR**  
SOPHOMORE, STUDIO ART

“There are different ways glass can be manipulated. Everybody thinks of cups and bowls, but there are so many aspects to it. It’s not just this one path. It’s like a river opening into an ocean. There are so many possibilities.”