

Carter Seibels of Divali Glass Jewelry

The Artist's Biography

I have always been enamored by small sparkly things. I remember being fascinated by anything that was glass or that had layers of color. Paperweights and anything made from Lucite have always mesmerized me. **So when I started making glass beads at the age of 18, as a senior in high school, I knew I had found my niche.** I could unite my fascinations with color and small creations and make little beauties myself.

As a sophomore at the College of Charleston in 1999, I wore one of my necklace creations when I went out one night, and could have sold it off my neck ten times. My creative and marketing juices started flowing. The next time I went home to Columbia, SC, I returned to school with a bead-making torch.

I set up in my bedroom and taught a roommate how to make glass beads. The next thing I knew, we were in business...literally! We had home shows and did a little bit of wholesaling to stores around town and slowly established ourselves as Divali Glass Jewelry. About a year later, I became the sole proprietor. **Still in college, I realized that this just might be my true calling.** I was making beads more than I was studying. Beads were my passion, and my passion was allowing me to make money. Divali Glass Jewelry quickly grew to more than a pastime. By the time I reached my senior year, I had a growing list of wholesale accounts and quite a following.



When I graduated in May of 2002, Divali Glass Jewelry was waiting for me. I walked down the aisle to receive my degree in Communication Studies intending to make beads for the rest of my life. And so I began. Until recently, **I have been entirely self-taught in my art form** with no one's instructions or technique to follow. Perhaps this is what has allowed me to think beyond the mechanical and imagine what could be. **My style is ever changing, but always uniquely Divali.**

Each year, my business has doubled in size. I participate in nationally recognized fine art and craft shows and exhibit my work in high-profile galleries across the country. I have been honored many times, including recognition at nationally-renowned exhibits and a scholarship from the International Society of Glass Beadmakers. Divali Glass Jewelry has been featured in publications such as *Southern Living* (February 2006), and one of my beads graced the cover of *Bead Review 2005*.

In 2006, I moved to Berkeley, CA where I now work with a gemstone and pressed-glass bead manufacturer and wholesaler. From my studio here, I continue to supply my best-selling stores, but I have shifted the focus of my business to retail consumers reached via my website and through participation in juried retail shows.

When I sit back (which doesn't happen often!) and look at the business that I have created, I realize how blessed I am to be gifted with a talent that energizes me every day. **I am inspired by the happiness and delight my work brings to others and it is a true pleasure for me to talk to my customers who cherish my small creations.** Through my love of color and passion for gems of magic, I have discovered an outlet that allows me to express my creativity, follow a dream and earn a living. What more could one ask?