



Living her Dream

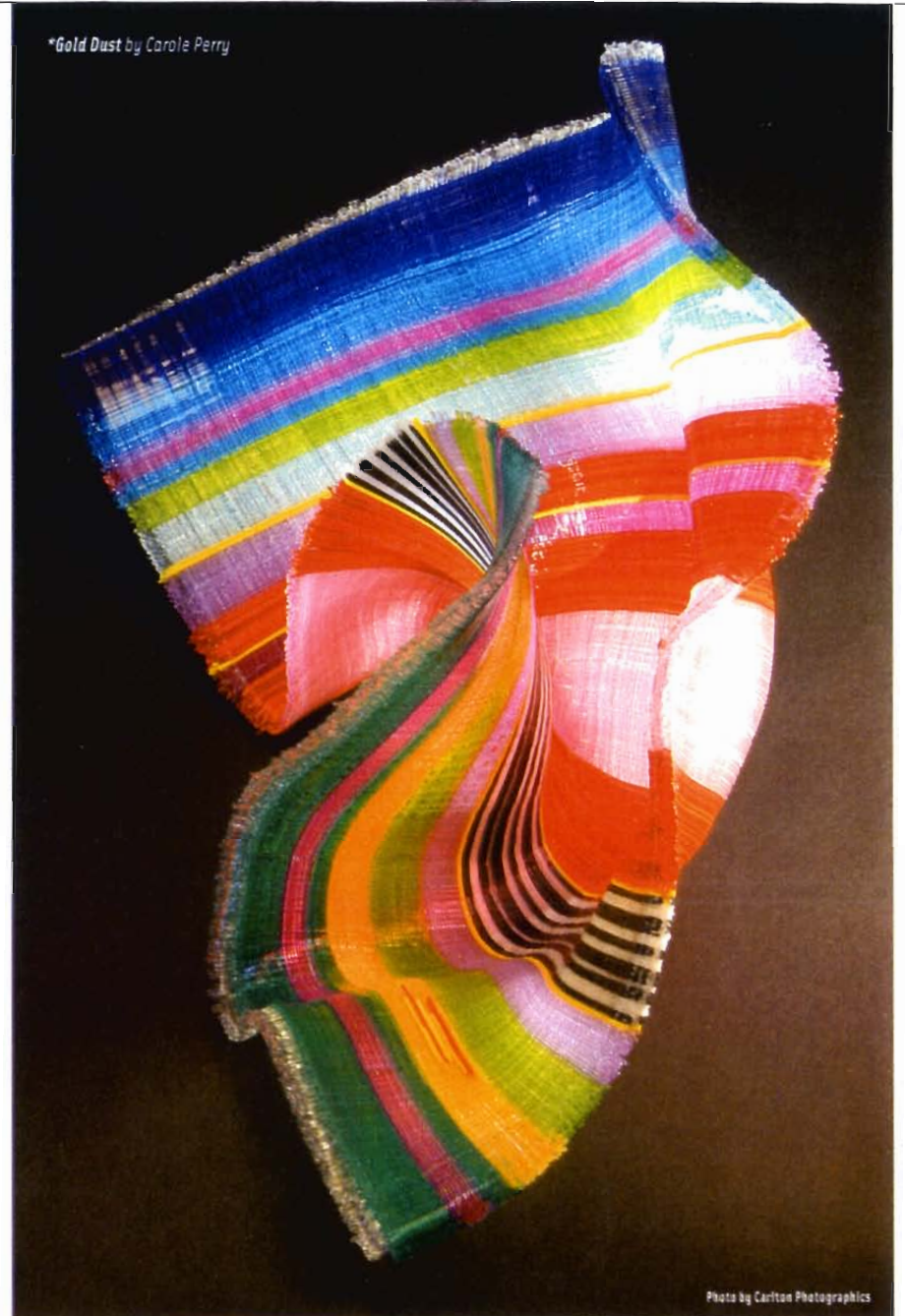
Corporate Executive Finds Joy & Success in New Career



Some called it courage, some called it crazy. Carole Perry, a self-described “corporate refugee,” abandoned her 22-year career in the computer industry. “I went from \$165,000 to, well... zero,” says Perry. “I felt like I couldn’t breathe. I quit to breathe.”

For over two decades, as a female executive in a male-dominated industry, Perry served as a role model for many women entering the corporate arena in the seventies. In fact, at IBM, she was the company’s first female sales representative, first female branch manager, first female sales manager and first female regional manager.

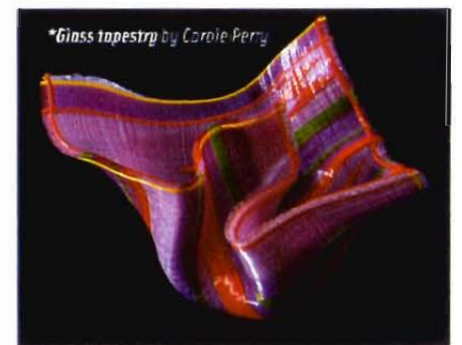
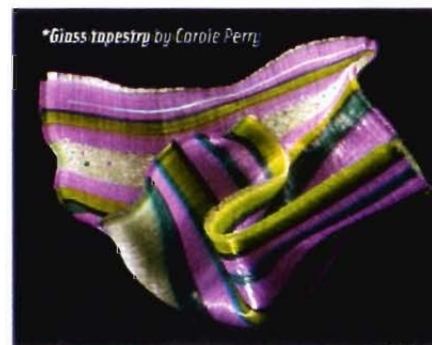
In 1989, soon after relocating for a management position at an Arizona computer company, Perry



decided to ditch the nine-to-five. With no game plan, she set-up residence in Cave Creek, taking the breather she needed while living off her savings. A friend fortuitously suggested she attend art glass classes in an Oregon “glass camp,” knowing that Perry was a fan of art glass, as well as a collector. Perry’s decision to heed her friend’s advice became the turning point of her life.

Today, largely self-taught, Perry is known internationally for her art glass created from her Cave Creek home and studio. You can find her vibrant art-works in the homes of collectors world-wide including Japan, Europe and the Netherlands, as well as galleries from San Francisco to Boca Raton. In Arizona, she is represented by Scottsdale’s Duley-Jones Gallery and Sedona’s Scherer Gallery.

Her “glass tapestries,” as she calls them, are created from thin glass “threads” in many sumptuous colors. After several days of criss-crossing nine layers of 5,000 threads, Perry carefully places her 18-inch square glass grid into a front-loading kiln, “cooking” her creation





Photos by Jeff Hubbe



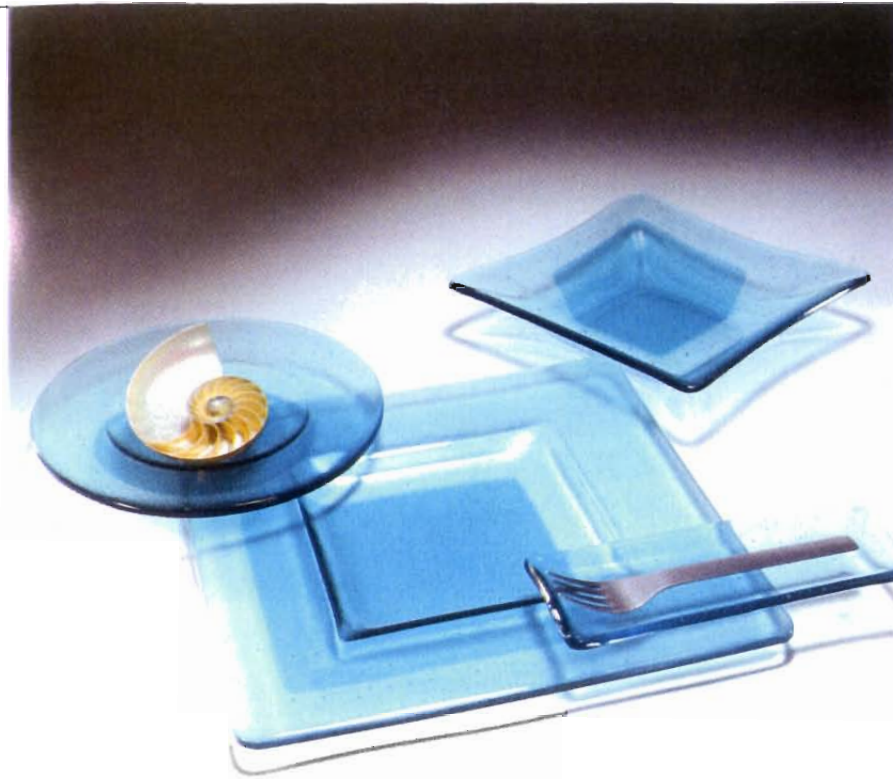
*left: *Glasswork* by Carole Perry.

*bottom: *Glasswork* by Carole Perry. (detail)

for three hours at 1,500 degrees. Donning what looks amusingly like a silver space-suit made of Kevlar (a fabric providing protection from high heat), Perry deftly removes the glass piece, now the consistency of pizza dough. Quickly placing her gloved fist in its center, the glass creation folds over, hardens within 15 seconds and, violá: a one-of-a-kind work of art—no two of her freehand sculptures alike.

Perry also collaborates with her partner Don Carroll, calling their fast-growing company Laughing Glass Studio. In addition to bright, funky kinetic mobiles, flowers, small tables and various decorative pieces—all made from glass and some with steel—the couple creates one-of-a-kind dinnerware. Word-of-mouth has created a strong following for the elegant, unique place settings. Perry says, “Often, clients are so enamored with their new tableware, they immediately host a dinner party, and like clockwork, we receive two or more calls the following Monday morning from dinner guests asking about acquiring their own set.” Clients often design or assist in designing their dinnerware, unleashing their own creative spirit, creating a look customized for their décor. A typical place setting (including soup and salad bowl, as well as entrée and desert plate), sells for \$200 to \$300.

Perry’s success in the arts underscores her belief that everyone can pursue their



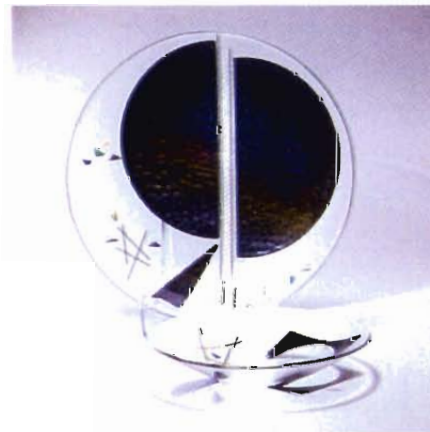
**Dinnerware created by Carole Perry of Laughing Glass Studio
Clients often design or assist in designing their dinnerware, creating a look customized for their décor. A typical place setting (including soup and salad bowl, as well as entrée and desert plate), sells for \$200 to \$300.*

own unique dream. "Until someone gives me concrete proof to the contrary, this is the only life we live," says Perry, smiling. "How could you not live it to the fullest? You must give it your best shot at what you like to do the most."

The artist also maintains that everyone has creative talents and resources. "I was like a million other people," says Perry. "Before I made this lifestyle shift, I'd have laughed if anyone said I'd be making a living with my hands. I promise you: you are a creative person."

When not busy in her studio, Perry contributes to her community—serving on the board of the Desert Foothills Land Trust, chairing charity events such as Empty Bowls, a fundraiser for the hungry each February, and giving her time to Meals on Wheels.

"It's very important for me to help people," says Perry. "I've learned some simple rules first hand: the more you give, the more you get. When you lead with your heart, the universe supports you." *



**Dinnerware created by Carole Perry*



DESIGN



NATURE



Award Winning

SIGNATURE

Wood Working
Over 20 Years of
Customer Satisfaction



3234 East Corona
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

602.305.9550
Call for appointment

Visit our web-site:
www.woodesign.org