

# the Art Cellar

## Beck Glass

*“Our blown glass work consists mainly of vessels with imagery. The imagery is based on dreams, life experiences and other things that affect us. They range from the sublime to the ridiculous. We enjoy the physical presence of our work, it’s size, shape and colors. These vessels serve to document, beautify and provide pleasure to our lives.”*

- Rick and Valerie Beck



Rick earned his Bachelors degree in Art with an emphasis on Glass and Valerie was awarded her degree in Human Services Administration and Political Science. Both went on to Southern Illinois University where Valerie completed Masters coursework in Educational Psychology and Rick earned a Master of Fine Arts with a specialty in Glass.

Between 1991 and 1994 Rick was Artist in Residence at the Penland School of Crafts, NC. He later taught at Penland School, served as a teaching assistant at Pilchuck Glass School, in Washington State, and was an Artist in Residence at the Appalachian Center for Crafts, in Smithville, TN. In 1995 Rick was awarded a SAF/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship.

Rick started working in glass in 1978, and Valerie in 1984. They established their own studio in rural North Carolina in 1991, where they continue to pursue their collaborative work and where Rick also creates his individual glass sculptures.

In 1991, the Beck’s were among only 100 glass artists selected from thousands by the Corning Museum of Glass to be published in the prestigious New Glass Review 12. Since 1992, their work has been featured six times in American Craft Magazine, as well as Glass Magazine.

Their work is included in numerous private, corporate and public collections throughout the world, including Dutton Lainson Company; Federal Reserve Bank, NC; Glasmuseum, Denmark; Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, WI; Mint Museum, NC; Johnson Wax Corporate Collection; and McDonalds’ Corporate Collection.