

## Curriculum Vitae

Lourdes Torgersen was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1961. She studied Social Communications at Rio de Janeiro State University and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Public Relations in 1986. After further study, Lourdes Torgersen began working in Graphic Design and Computer Graphics opening a small business with her sister, Cristina Orge.

In 1993 Lourdes left the four year partnership to move to Houston, Texas to marry Jan Torgersen. During those initial married years she volunteered her time and expertise to MD Anderson Hospital producing the quarterly volunteer's newsletter, "The Voice," and took ESL courses at Rice University. To expand her qualifications, she began studying the new generation of publishing software from Adobe and Macromedia at Houston Community College.

In 1994, she became a mother, to a son named Oliver, and moved to Fairfield, CT, with the transfer of her husband's employment. There she continued her career as a Graphic Designer and took additional courses in computer graphics at the Silvermine School of Art (CT), acquiring knowledge in Macintosh interface.

In 1996, she again became a mother as Victoria was born. Motherhood required her to stay at home which avails the opportunity to begin working on her passion: ART. She experimented with various media: painting oil and acrylic, ceramics, glass, and fabrics.

In 1999, Lourdes followed her husband as he took an overseas position in Denmark. Again, new opportunities unveiled as she searched for other art related prospects. In order to expand her knowledge, Lourdes took courses in Antiques and Fine Arts at local schools. As opportunity prevailed, she travels around visiting every studio and factory throughout Scandinavia and observed various glass techniques, finally discovering Glass Fusing or, as many call it: Kiln Formed Glass.

Lourdes' first exposure of glass art began while travelling around Europe in 1984. While living in Copenhagen in 2002, Lourdes had the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to create art in glass. As a result she became passionate for this timeless material. As her passion for glass art grew she diverted her attention from graphic design and devoted herself to the design and creation of art glass. She took various classes and mastered the basics with renowned artists such as Anne Wedell-Wedellsborg. In time, Lourdes developed new techniques and refined her art.

In 2003 the family relocated to Houston, Texas. She took classes with local artists and the international legend, Richard La Londe. Lourdes managed to master the available fusing techniques and in 2007 started her own Houston studio. She produces and sells her pieces locally.

Today, Lourdes Torgersen stands out as one of the most innovative glass artists of our time. Her company, LULART was a pioneer in the industry. Lourdes' energy is devoted to working with glass and recognizes its beauty, multi-dimensional qualities and allows the materials to dictate design. Recently she began to use found material – mainly glass and metals – to explore new artistic possibilities. Smashing and reshaping bottles, glass jars, drinking glasses or any other broken pieces of glass allows her to develop a new line of work, contemporary and fun. By adding other materials (metals, mica, enamels, and etc.) her artwork has gained strength and interest. The possibilities are endless and fascinating.

The evolution of her work is to allow the natural process of transforming the glass into its liquid natural liquid state, directing its flow, and re-freezing the shape to achieve the ultimate artwork. The cultural aspects from her country of origin as well as those nations she has visited continue to inspire her every day. Her subjects are extremely diverse and often represent daily aspects of life. Colors and nature play an important role in her work.

Lourdes Torgersen hopes to expose her work in an array of venues to gain further recognition and share her passion.