



Depth of Water is a cast glass turquoise abstract sculpture (measuring 71X23X11 inches). It was cast in Prague and is on loan from the Austin Art Project located in Palm Desert CA.

Ms. Klumpar was born in the Czech Republic in 1954. She was educated in Czechoslovakia receiving a B.A. in 1973 from the School of Glass Art and in 1981 an M.A. from the Academy of Applied Arts. She studied under Stanislave Lipensky .

I chose this work because of the gradation of color and the way it reflects light as well as the shape of the sculpture. While the sculpture is angular it did not leave me with a harsh or jolting feeling –I found it soothing. I developed an increased appreciation for the piece the more I learned about the artist, the casting technique, the difficulty in creating pieces using the technique and the evolution of this form of glassmaking.

Post WWII Czech Glass Artists (including Lipensky) are credited with taking glass making from the craft of making functional pieces to an art form by using the cast glass technique to translate abstract concepts into very large sculptures. The artist designs the piece and a glassmaker, or the glassmaker and the artist working in concert, casts the glass. The elements of this school of Czech sculptural glass include the treatment of sculpture's interior space and the constant change of light combined with the mold melted glass technique.

Ms. Klumpar used a cast glass technique called Kiln casting. Using this method a glass object is created in a kiln by heating glass above or inside a refractory mold until it flows to fill the void. It took over two years to complete Depth of Water to Ms. Klumpar's satisfaction. She designed the work and sent it to a glass works team in Prague. The first casting cracked and it had to be redone.

As a child Ms. Klumpar was attracted to the river in her hometown .She recalls her fascination with the water's glimmering surface, the color shifts in the depths of the water and the water's frozen skin in winter. She says that she loved those changes and could have spent hours observing reflections and mirrored surroundings on the water. That description and feeling is certainly reflected in Depth of Water.

SOURCES: City Lights by John Drury, Glass Quarterly No.124; Vladamira Klumpar Movements; www.cmog.org/article/20th-century-bohemian-czech-glass-timeline; www.artandantiquesmag.com/2015/04/czech-art-glass/ <http://www.austinartprojects.com/exhibitions>.