

PENLAND GALLERY

MARC + KARI PETROVIC | Birds in the Hand Jewelry

Euclid, OH

GLASS | Sculpture and jewelry

Penland Affiliation | Penland Instructors 1995, 1999, 2010, 2018

Artist Information | Marc Petrovic and Kari Russell-Pool are internationally recognized artists who have been working in glass for over twenty years. Married, they share a studio in Ohio with their dog Hank. Both Marc and Kari have individual studio practices as sculptural glass artists in addition to their collaborative jewelry collection.

For nearly two decades Marc has employed bird imagery in his sculptural work. In the *Avian Series*, birds are reduced to pixelations of glass; they are built, much like we are, one piece or experience at a time. Kari takes the unused pixels and transforms them into elegant focused studies of plumage for personal adornment. They formed *Birds in the Hand Jewelry* to repurpose Marc's leftover glass and playfully reexamine the relationships of the patterns and textures.

Technical Information | Our jewelry starts as large sheets of colored Bullseye Glass that we cut into strips and arrange layer by layer into bricks of pattern. These bricks are lightly fused together in a special oven, picked up on the end of a long solid rod, and heated and compressed to fully fuse the blocks and remove the air bubbles. Once evenly heated, the bricks are pulled into long thin rods. These rods are placed into an annealing oven to allow them to cool to room temperature in a controlled way.

Once cooled, the rods are chopped into smaller pieces known as murini. When fully fused, our glass naturally pools to a 6mm thickness. So we cut the chunks to at least 6mm to avoid distorting the patterns. We arrange the tiny blocks into a template mold and fuse the bits into a single tablet. These tablets are then cut into different shapes using strip cutters and a special glass cutting band saw.