

## RAISE A GLASS

A lot of the time, college-level art programs focus on artistic and conceptual skills, but don't teach art marketing skills in much depth. Jessica Schimpf decided to study at the Maryland Institute College of Art—MICA for short—because she knew that's where she could learn 3D art techniques and business skills.

"I went for sculpture," she said. She also learned the photography, graphics and marketing techniques that she now uses to run her business, Mantra Glass Art.

Glass is a labor-intensive, skill-intensive medium, and getting started can involve a hefty investment. Schimpf noticed that in Denver, where she's from, it could cost about a thousand dollars for enough instruction and supplies just to get your feet wet. She set up her Reno studio so that people can try their hand at glassmaking in just one afternoon, in classes that cost under \$100.

Beginners get as much help as they need to complete a project. "Jellyfish and wavy bowls are two of our best sellers," Schimpf said. "You can't actually do those projects alone until you've had months of practice." At Mantra, an instructor will take care of some of the more exacting parts of the process, and students will help.

"I work with them," Schimpf said. "It's 50/50 work. It's accelerated."

She also teaches glass fusing, which is less demanding. "Kids can

take it, same as the blowing classes," Schimpf said. "We just do the extra work if they need the assistance."

"We have returning students—we have full time students," she said. "We get more challenging with them. We get harder and harder with each thing."

Mantra Glass Art offers longer series of classes, private studio time and several one-stop sessions in which students make items such as shot glasses, coasters or bowls. A workshop in stemless, colored wine glasses is scheduled for May 10, just in time for Mother's Day. □

**Mantra Glass Art**  
651 E. Fourth St.  
(720) 708-8998  
[www.mantraglassart.com](http://www.mantraglassart.com)

A paperweight is one of several items that beginners can make at Mantra Glass Art. COURTESY/MANTRA GLASS ART



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