

Studio Dokola

Hot Glass Foundations: An Introduction to Glassblowing

This course provides a comprehensive foundation in glassblowing techniques, from shaping simple forms to creating functional vessels and exploring color applications. By the end of the course, you'll have a hands-on understanding of the material's unique properties, a portfolio of your own glass creations, and the confidence to take on more advanced projects.

WATCH: *Jacks hot glass foundations video* [here](#)

Whether you wish to pursue glassblowing as a hobby or explore it further as an art form or career, this class will ignite your passion and open the door to limitless possibilities in the art of glass. This course will allow you to take part in further beginner foundation courses that focus more acutely on a technique or form that you enjoy making, with a potential outcome of you being able to join our studio member subscription which allows you weekly access to the studio for glassblowing and coldworking.

Provision for the Course

Included in your course will be eight 3 hour sessions for you to explore molten glass sharing a working station (bench) with one other student and on teacher. This will allow to not only learn gaffing (blower) but also assistant roles in this team sport!

To ensure a safe and rewarding learning experience, the following materials and equipment will be provided:

Safety Equipment

- **Protective Spectacles:** Clear lenses for use at all times in the studio.
- **Heat-Resistant Sleeves:** Protects arms from radiant heat during close work.
- **Gloves:** For specific tasks requiring additional hand protection.
- **PPE:** Including aprons and heat-resistant materials as needed.

Glass and Colour Materials

- **Glass Batch:** All glass used during the course is included in your tuition.
- **Color Materials:** Frit, powders, and rods for experimentation and design.

Tools and Studio Access

- Access to all essential glassblowing tools (blowpipes, punty rods, blocks, paddles, jacks, shears, etc.).
- Use of the furnace, glory hole, and annealer during scheduled sessions.

Learning Materials

- **Weekly Email Digest:** Recaps of the previous week's lessons, a preview of upcoming tuition, video examples of techniques, and links to artists or craftspeople specializing in related techniques.

Extras Provided

- Basic grinding and polishing tools for cold working in Week 8.
- Sketching materials for project planning.

Additional Purchase

- Completing this course will provide you access to our further learning courses and studio access hire
- There will also be a select number of resources available for additional purchase that will help to expand your further learning, expressive possibilities and personal toolkits
 - Books, colours and equipment.

Participants are encouraged to wear natural fibers, closed-toe shoes, and avoid loose clothing or dangling jewelry for safety. All tools and materials are included in the course fee, but students are welcome to bring their own color materials or tools if they wish to personalize their projects further.

Outcomes

You can expect to take home 2+ pieces per glassblowing session - totalling 16+ unique handmade works overall.

These pieces are amazingly thoughtful gifts for those close to you or can be unique decoraitons for the home.

These courses will allow you to work towards being proficient enough to hire the studio facilities on a regular basis, or subscribe to the studio as a member allowing you session access to blowing and coldworking facilities.

2025 Course Dates

There is currently two planned semesters during 2026:

30th Jan - 20th March 5:00 - 8:00pm

5th May - 19th June 5:00 - 8:00pm

The classes are proposed to fall on Friday evening, but alternatively, if a Thursday suits you better or the class time should be moved slightly later to allow on time arrival please communicate this as it might be able to be accommodated if others share the same request.

Course Fee & Payment

The course fee for the eight-week program is \$2300 per person. To ensure the course runs, it requires a minimum of two people booked. If you wish to take the course with a friend, colleague or loved one this makes programming much easier as to fill the minimum attendance and organise class times.

Due to the impact of classes on studio planning, full payment is requested in full 30 days prior to the course beginning. If you require a payment plan then please call to discuss.

If you would like to further discuss any aspects of this course then please reach out on 0490776896, or send an email to hello@studiodokola.com

Course Content

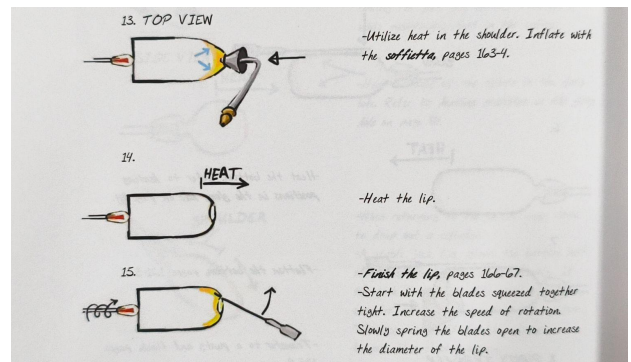
Week 1: Foundation Skills and Spheres 🎨🔥

- **Focus:** Introduction to glassblowing tools, safety, and techniques.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Gathering molten glass and controlling the gather.
 - Blowing spheres and forming the first bubbles.
 - Introduction to puntying and opening shapes.
- **Objective:** Build confidence with foundational skills and experiment with basic forms.



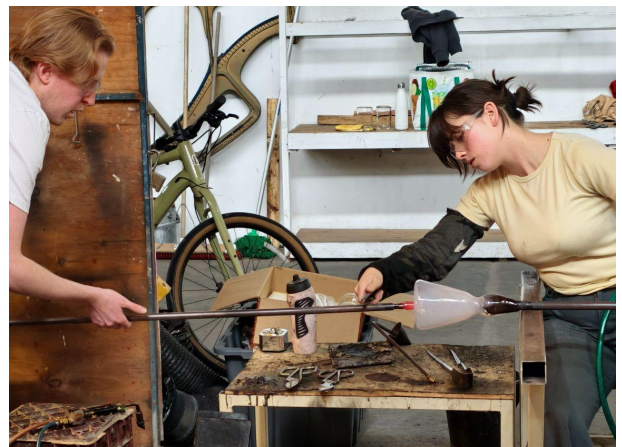
Week 2: Foundational Shapes – Cup Making and Cylinders 🍷🌈

- **Focus:** Developing from spheres, puntying, and opening shapes into cups.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Practice blowing symmetrical bubbles and controlling wall thickness.
- **Objective:** Develop control over wall and base thickness while setting a foundation for consistent forms and personal color palettes.



Week 3: Foundational Shapes – Cones & Inverted Cones 🔵▲

- **Focus:** Building foundational shaping techniques.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Shaping cylinders and cones using blocks, paddles, and marvering.
 - Understanding heat zones and maintaining symmetry.
- **Objective:** Master basic shapes essential for more complex forms.



Week 4: Scaling and Refining Forms 🔍📏

- **Focus:** Refining foundational shapes and exploring variations.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Scale up works from Week 3.
 - Explore marginal changes in form and size.
 - Focus on centering techniques to achieve consistent results.
- **Objective:** Build precision and confidence in shaping larger or more complex forms.



Week 5: Advanced Forms – Bowls and Plates 🍽️🔧

- **Focus:** Refining pipe turning, utilizing gravity, and centrifugal force.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Create shallow bowls, deep bowls, and plates.
 - Focus on smooth edges, even walls, and balanced forms.
- **Objective:** Develop a sense of flow and timing to shape refined and functional pieces.



Week 6: Colour 📏🏺

- **Focus:** We will explore different applications of colour to further create unique forms.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Applying frits for texture and pattern
 - Using wraps to explore different modes of colour application
- **Objective:** Challenge students to push their creative limits with colour while maintaining control over shape and symmetry.



Week 7: Independent Projects 🛠️🍷

- **Focus:** Designing and creating a project to your creative desire using the skills sets learnt.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Projects may include beer glasses, sake sets, wine decanters, stemless glasses, pouring jugs, or other functional designs.
 - Sketch and plan pieces with instructor feedback.
- **Objective:** Encourage creativity and the application of learned techniques to complete a cohesive project.



Week 8: Independent Projects Cont. & Intro to Cold Working and Design Applications ❄️🛠️

- **Focus:** Introduction to cold working and incorporating other materials.
- **Hands-On:**
 - Grinding and polishing techniques for finishing glass pieces.
 - Discuss design possibilities with coldworking.
- **Objective:** Enhance completed works with professional finishing techniques and expand design possibilities.

