

# Bringing Glass Education Online Launching the New ISGB Education Platform

by Floor Kaspers, ISGB Education Director

As the new Education Director of the ISGB, I will admit that I was hesitant when we started discussions about our online education platform. Being used to in-person classes with a full hands-on experience made me question the benefit of online learning for glass art. However, doing a complete online version of *The Gathering* last June that included five online workshops was not only a steep learning curve for us as the ISGB, but also a great testing ground. That test had a clear outcome. Online education is here to stay!

### Online Benefits to Students

Discussion participants pointed out several major benefits to the online classes. The obvious one is that without having to travel, it is more cost effective. Second is that the class can be taken at a time that is convenient to the student, which can even include the middle of the night. A third benefit is the ability for all students to see the process at the torch up close. A fourth benefit is to be able to watch sections again to get a better understanding. Here are a few quotes from our participants.

- "It is helpful to have the views that video recordings offer. Sometimes when viewing demos in person, it is hard to get a good view."
- "I am really pleased to be able to access the workshops in my own time and at my own pace. While I love in-person classes for the direct attention from the teacher, this method is less stressful for the time and very convenient."



### Providing a Satisfying Experience for Teachers and Students

For several of the instructors, this was the first time they offered an online class. Their feedback was also important for us at the ISGB to learn how to make online teaching easy for the instructor while providing high-quality content for the student.

We used the feedback from the students and instructors to launch the ISGB Education Platform for a full experience of glass education online. Some of the highlights of opportunities available are yet to come, including:

- free online tutorials on making beads for Beads of Courage,
- relaunching our 2021 classes from *The Gathering* to a wider audience, and
- introducing new classes, including a beginners' class as well as some more advanced classes.



Corina Tettinger, Rain Forest Beads, an example from the artist's  
ISGB January 2022 workshop.



*Marcy Lamberson, Bobbleheads. These are from the "Movers & Shakers Bobbleheads" class that will be offered in February.*

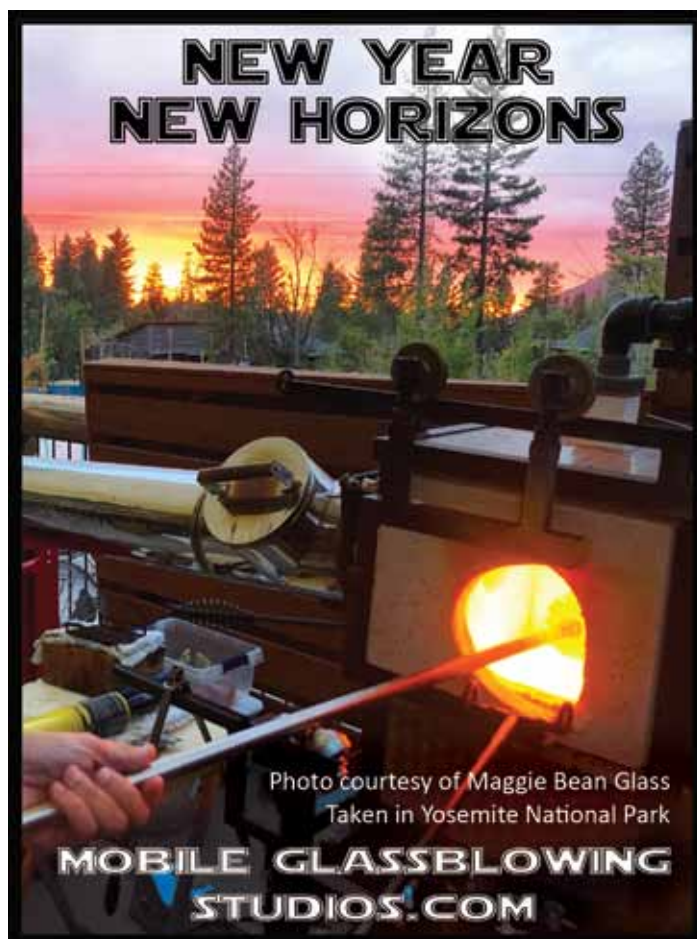
## Added Perks

Our online classes will be available for viewing for the students for a year. Every class will also include a private Facebook group for discussion and a live Zoom session. That way, we feel that we can achieve the best of both worlds—allowing students to work at their own pace with the online content but also letting them have interaction with other students and the teacher. The paid classes will be available to both ISGB members and nonmembers, with ISGB members receiving a discount.

In 2022 ISGB will be bringing a lot more educational content right into beadmakers' and glass artists' homes and studios through this new educational platform. We also look forward to offering many new workshops at our next online Gathering, June 9–12, 2022. You can check out the platform on [www.isgbeducation.org](http://www.isgbeducation.org)

Visit [www.isgb.org](http://www.isgb.org) to learn more about the International Society of Glass Beadmakers, upcoming events, and how to become a member.

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