

THE LIMITATIONS OF FLOAT GLASS AS AN ARTISTIC ADVANTAGE FOR THE PRACTICING GLASS ARTIST

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Research purpose. Float glass (today's window glass) is not recyclable and due to its production method - a great technological advantage, is difficult to melt and avoided by artists. However, the exact reason for its non-recyclability could be used as an artistic advantage and compositional and design approach. So, the aim of the research is to find practical ways of using float (window) glass for the purpose of creating pieces of art; use its limitations as an artistic advantage.

Keywords: float glass, glass, recyclability, sustainability, technical limitations as an advantage, window glass

Research Methodology. Researching the existing theory and drawing conclusions; practical testing; designing and making of pieces of art, photo-documenting.

Results / Findings. Float glass is applicable for making pieces of art: cast glass sculptures, fused panels, utility design and fine craft objects (fig. 1-3). It is labor consuming, but to a comparable level with other mediums and glasses. It offers its own aesthetic qualities that are not achievable with any other glasses.

Originality / Practical implications. This is personal research and all visual examples are of my own art. However, I do believe float glass can be very useful for educating purposes as its technical limitations and aesthetic qualities give a natural frame or direction in composition and design. It is also the cheapest glass in the market which is a big advantage for the student and the emerging artist.



Figure 1. Urban Sites of Dreamland - I & II. Author: Lachezar Dochev, 2012



Figure 2. Urban Sites of Dreamland - III & IV. Author: Lachezar Dochev, 2018



Figure 3. Urban Sites of Dreamland - V. Author: Lachezar Dochev, 2019