

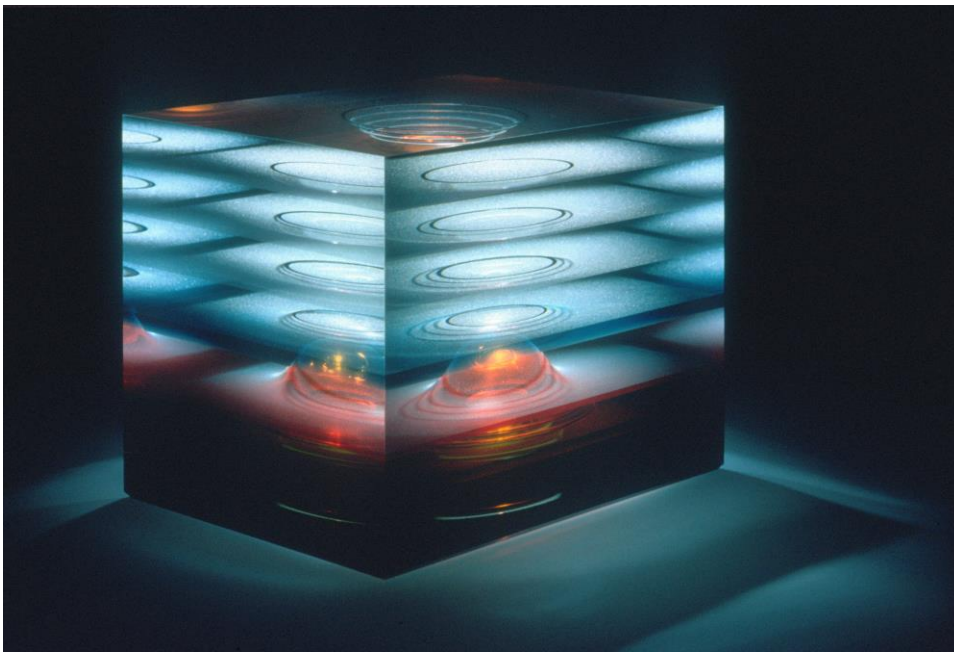
Detroit Art Review

Art is the outward expression of an inner life of an artist that is vast and varied.

February 22, 2021 by Jonathan Rinck

Glass in Four Dimensions @ Flint Institute of Art in the Harris – Burger Gallery

When Albert Einstein advanced his general theory of relativity, he argued that there was a fourth dimension: spacetime. According to theoretical physicists, spacetime has very physical properties: it can literally warp, bend, and even tear. So can molten glass, of course, and the exhibition *Glass in the Fourth Dimension*, currently on view at the Flint Institute of Art through March 21, features a selection of glass works from the Studio Glass Movement (the 1960s through the present) which directly or indirectly speak to the concept of the fourth dimension.



.....Tom Patti's *Four Ringed Echo*, a cuboid sculpture comprising layers of glass which contain a set of vertically stacked rings expanding upward and outward, again implying both time and movement, much like successive frames of stop-motion photography. Both works also directly speak to the ambiguity of the nature of glass, which straddles the boundary between liquid and solid.

But at its most literal, the fourth dimension is a reference to the interconnectedness of both space and time...sculpture exists in three-dimensional space, and must be appreciated in 360 degrees; the viewer must move around it, incorporating the element of time.

.... *Glass in the Fourth Dimension* is both welcoming and accessible. And much like the rest of the permanent works on view at the FIA, this exhibit makes abstract art enjoyable to those who might not generally consider themselves fans of abstract art. There's an undeniable craftsmanship and polish on display, and all these works are undeniably beautiful. Furthermore, the time-based element to this show emphatically makes the case that art is best viewed firsthand (and over time), and not just instantaneously as an image online or in a book— a compelling reason to come see this exhibition in person.

Glass in Four Dimensions @ [Flint Institute of Arts](#) through March 21,2021