



In the studio, Bernstein cuts and grinds large pieces of molded glass into unexpectedly intricate creations.

While he cuts, grinds, smooths, and polishes, Bernstein imbues glass with his own magic and his own stories. What he calls his stone quarry is a section of his studio filled with large glass blocks of blue, red, amber, green, and other colors, which he has created by casting. As he shapes the heavy chunks, taken from molds, he cuts away pounds of glass from each piece to sculpt his vision. "I can see exactly what I'm doing as I'm doing it. Like a stone sculptor, I see the form or shape I want to bring out of the glass," Bernstein says.

His biggest artistic breakthrough came by accident. In a welding mishap, he discovered an effect that evolved into his signature fused-steel technique. That gives the glass in some of his pieces the appearance of solid steel.

In addition to steel, Bernstein's reflection and perception — and perhaps his psychology background — leave their mark on his work. "He's not creating objects, he's creating expressions," Chappell says. "It may be the medical profession's loss but art's gain."

Bernstein's art inspires thought, too. "The piece begins

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