

MEET THE ARTIST

LAURA HART

OYSTERFEST30





HOW DO WE
THANK
BARBARA





**...FOR THE 30
YEARS OF
FELLOWSHIP,
FLOWERS,
FUN....AND
OYSTERS!**





**MAGICAL
MOMENTS,
MEMORABLE
FOOD**



**WE REACHED
OUT TO GLASS
ARTIST LAURA
HART FOR THAT
PERFECT GIFT.
SHE LIVES IN
RURAL
CAVENDISH,
ENGLAND.**

She said, " I love
creating all things
from the natural
world!.

I'm thinking that
perhaps the best
way forward is an
oyster shaped and
colour- textured
bowl that she can
admire and put to
practical use."



HER IDEA:

(March 2018) "The inside of the bowl is the best place to add the colour variants and perhaps a mother of pearl glaze, with the base being black/grey iridescent glass, which would give nice texture and create a perfect black base canvas for the inside of the bowl.

I would hand build the mould from images, but of course the base won't have all the ridges and hollows as this could only be achieved with pate de verre casting method - a much longer and more complex process.

The face down iridescent, however, does create a lovely texture which would compensate nicely."

"Think of this in reverse - once the clay has dried a little more I put more detail into it. When it's complete I pour the plaster over the top to create a negative (internal of the oyster shell) into which the completed glass will 'sag' under heat.



PREPARING THE MOLD

Have to make the plaster mold way in advance of using it so it has plenty of time to dry."

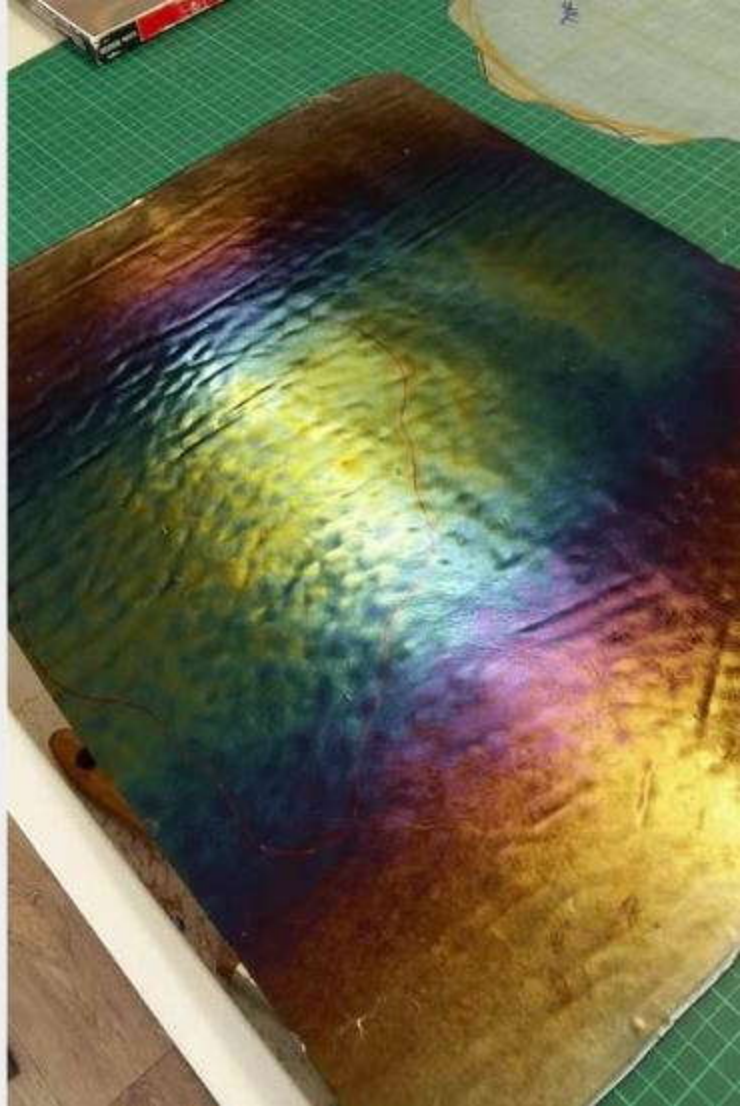


**POURING AND
DIVESTING THE
MOLD**



"Thought you might like to see the piece of glass I have selected to make the oyster bowl.

This is the iridescent side which will be underneath."



**KILN AND COLD WORKING
STUDIO; TERRACE WITH
GRACE THE DOG**



**HArt
Glass**

SOMETIMES FATE THROWS A WRENCH INTO BEST-LAID PLANS

(April 2018) "Apologies for the long silence; I have cut all the glass, made all the colour patterns and was ready to rock and roll. Then the wheels came off; I've been diagnosed with leukaemia and I'm now in hospital. By what they're telling me I will be in for at least a month. Much as I would love to complete your oyster bowl when I'm well I don't want to jeopardise your gift surprise by being late with it.

There is a bank in the hospital so I can hopefully do a refund that way or I'm happy to PayPal to a personal account.

I do apologize - I was so looking forward to finishing it after all the work so far, but I don't want to let you down."

**WE URGED
HER TO
CONCENTRATE
ON GETTING
BETTER AND
FINISH THE
ARTWORK
WHEN SHE
COULD LATER
ON**



"Absolutely I would love to finish the piece for your sister; I was actually looking forward to sending you images of the first firing that should have been completed this weekend.

Anyway, if all goes well with the first bout of chemo I might be home in a month. I've done all the real heavy work with molds etc so now it's aesthetics and the 'art' bit, so finishing the oyster should come on quite quickly without being taxing on the physical front. Keeping everything crossed I might still get it to you on time.

Your lovely message is another welcome inspiration and incentive added to so many from my close friends and family to fight this insidious interloper and get back to the work I love"

JUNE 2018

"I was discharged from hospital a week ago and have been working on your oyster since I got home - I really want to try and get this to you in time for your Oysterfest, especially since you've been so kind about waiting for it.

It is now in the kiln on the mould, so I will see how it's come out in a couple of days. Perfect timing as I am starting the next round of chemo tomorrow.

(After chemo)

"I have done as best I can to recreate the oyster in its shell, with the underside rainbow iridescent. I've made the underside of the 'handle' end slightly more textured so that it's easier to hold. There has of course had to be a little 'license' as to the finished shape; she will need it as a bowl, so of course it has depth, but not great depth so it loses the oyster look."

**COMPLETED BOWL WITH
ORIGINAL OYSTER IMAGE**



"Well despite everything, it's all done and I do hope you are all pleased with the outcome. It's as close to being an oyster as I can muster and still have it perform the task of oyster bowl!

It was actually the determination to finish the oyster that pulled me straight back into the studio the moment I got back home. I finished other pieces too that might have lingered but for the concerted effort of getting back to 'normal' life."



UNDERSIDE OF BOWL

IT ARRIVED IN CALIFORNIA!



To Barbara with love, from
Karen, Maris, and Susan

