

Emerald Green & Cobalt Blue “Groove;” Blue in Blue Seed; and Green in Cobalt Stingray by Benjamin Edols and Kathy Elliott

In recognition of the important part that art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* will feature some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on the Mayo Clinic campuses.

Both born in Sydney, Australia, (Edols in 1967 and Elliott in 1964), the artistic team of Ben Edols and Kathy Elliott^{1,2} specializes in glass blowing and glass cold working.^{3,4} Edols received his BA from the Sydney College of Arts in Australia, which led to a postgraduate degree from the Canberra School of Art in Canberra, Australia, in 1992. Elliott received her BA in art from the Canberra School of Art that same year. The two first exhibited together in 1993 when they collaborated on a show at the de Vera Glass Gallery located in San Francisco, California.^{1,2} They were married in 1995, have 2 children, and operate a glass studio in Sydney.³ The artistic team has extensive national and international exhibits, and they have ties to many well-known schools of glass, including the Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwyck, Washington, and the Toyoma Institute of Glass Art in Japan.¹

As its name reveals, cold working refers to the shaping, etching, and polishing of glass when it is in a cold state. It involves the use of both manual and power tools, such as diamond saws, knives, and sanders. Safety risks from this form of work are high, given the nature of glass.⁵ *Emerald Green & Cobalt Blue “Groove,” Blue in Blue Seed,* and *Green in Cobalt Stingray*, 3 works by Edols and Elliott, are examples of both hot and cold glass work. They are blown into their vessel shapes from molten glass and finished with cold work techniques. Most striking are the vibrant, verdant, deep, and rich colors of each piece. They reflect an Art Deco style and hint at mysterious contents—perhaps exotic perfumes, rich liquors, or healing balms; or the mythical home of an Arabian Jinn; or they could be the containers of the fabled gifts of the Magi carried on camel’s backs across desert sands. Clearly Edols and Elliott’s teamwork bring



the magic of glasswork to life, and, because of the opaque nature of glass, light plays an important role in the perception of these pieces.

Emerald Green & Cobalt Blue “Groove,” Blue in Blue Seed, and *Green in Cobalt Stingray*, are located on the 8th Floor of the Gonda Building in Rochester, Minnesota, and are sponsored by Jack E. and Leila A. Nessen.

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1. Art glass by Ben Edols and Kathy Elliott. Kela’s Glass Gallery website. <http://www.glass-art.com/ArtistPages/edols.htm>. Accessed October 3, 2013.
2. Edols Elliott website: Biographies. <http://www.edolselliott.com/bio.html>. Accessed October 3, 2013.
3. Traveler Gallery website: artists benjamin edols and kathy elliot. http://www.travergallery.com/gallery_artist_details/edols-elliott.aspx?&da=statement&upcoming=0. Accessed October 3, 2013.
4. Edols Elliott website: methods. <http://www.edolselliott.com/methods.html>. Accessed October 3, 2013.
5. Cold Working. Glass Campus website. www.glasscampus.com. Accessed December 13, 2013.