

Press Release; Bellas Artes Gallery 653 Canyon Road Santa Fe NM

What: *Mary Shaffer: Reflection & Form*
When: October 10 through December 31, 2018
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11 – 5pm
Website: <https://www.bellasartegallery.com/>



Mary Shaffer is one of the significant influences in the American Studio Glass movement of the 1970s, she developed a technique she calls “mid-air slumping,” a unique method of bending glass into art. Her “Tools” series combines resonant, down-to-earth items like ice tongs, buggy wrenches, and sheep sheers with the fluidity of molten glass, often a whimsical marriage of sturdy simplicity and dazzling elegance.

The artist's criterion for choosing each tool based on shape and utility. "I take lovingly crafted, hand-forged tools -- the epitome of American invention -- and recycle them in my work," Shaffer explains. "The challenge is to make the glass look as honest and straightforward as the original tool."

Work exhibited is a combination of Shaffer's tools, work from her Hanging Series, based on window light, and Cobalt Wave. Shaffer's work is in the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, MAD (Museum of Art and Design) NYC, and Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan among many others.

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