



Smithsonian American Art Museum  
*Renwick Gallery*

## Paula Bartron

Born in San Mateo, Calif., 1946; lives in Stockholm, Sweden

Glass artist Paula Bartron focuses on cast objects and cylinder forms that she characterizes as simple, scaled down, minimal and intended in part to relate to the primitive. Much of her glass has rough, sand-encrusted surfaces reminiscent of ancient objects that have been excavated. Bartron's geometric forms have undulating profiles, enhanced by subtle variations of form and color that render them soft and fluid. Although Bartron is American, her years in Sweden have influenced her work which is a melding of a Swedish and an American aesthetic.

Bartron studied at the University of California, Berkeley where she earned a bachelor of arts in design, ceramics and glass in 1970, and a master of arts in design in glass in 1972 while studying under Marvin Lipofsky. After graduating, Bartron moved to Europe with the intent of achieving greater technical expertise in glass. In 1972 she attended the symposium *Glas Heute: Kunst oder Handwerk? (Glass Today: Art or Craft?)* at the Museum Bellerive in Zürich, a seminal event in studio glass history. The following year she became one of the first Americans to study at the Orrefors Glass School in Sweden. She then worked in Finland as an apprentice under Kaj Frank and Oiva Toikka. In 1975, Bartron started the studio glass program at Konstfack at the University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm, Sweden. She is currently an associate professor there. Bartron also has traveled to Venice, Italy and to Nový Bor in the Czech Republic to blow glass.

Her work has been exhibited in shows throughout the world, including "Design 4 Elements—Contemporary Swedish Design" at the Frankfurt Fair in Frankfurt, Germany; "International Exhibition of Glass Kanazawa 2001" at the Design Center in Ishikawa, Kanazawa, Japan; and "The Sixth São Paulo Biennial of Architecture and Design" in São Paulo, Brazil. Additionally, she is a three-time recipient of the Stockholm City Artists Grant and a four-time recipient of the Swedish State Artists Grant.