

decor **PROFILE**Candy striped glassware that  
look inviting enough to eat!**aline johnson**text by **KALPANA DEUSKAR**

**I**f Aline Johnson's glassware makes you think of an English beach in the summer, sparkling water and brightly striped beach tents, it's not entirely by accident. It's the result of "summers and lots of weekends spent on the Dorset coastline" in Southwest England.

"The textures of ammonites, pebbles and sand...the shops selling bright beach paraphernalia and colourful candy...all have an impact," she says. And, it gets translated into sparkling, fluid and colourful glassware. Based in London, Aline designs and creates a range of fused and kiln-worked glassware. Her tableware, vases, lamps and chandeliers are sold out of galleries in the UK, Europe and USA.

Aline's feel for colour and texture is partly rooted in the early years she spent as a fashion-designer working out of Italy. Sampling trips also brought her to India. "The sari colours and temple flowers certainly added to my love for vibrant colours."

Aline moved to England in 1991 to marry. No longer keen to travel, she looked for a new medium to use her creative energy. A stint of mosaic-making turned out to be a stepping stone to the world of glass and she opened her own studio.

The striped glass, now practically a signature, is deceptively simple. The translucent glass is imported from the US, and the kiln heated to 830°C. The item, which reached stellar popularity was her handkerchief vase, not exactly cheap at £125. Last December it was featured in a national daily and Aline was deluged by orders, with "people queuing up on christmas eve." Aline also takes commissions for large architectural panels, and is working on a "huge chandelier".

Currently she is using leftover glass snippets to create a wall of dangling christmas stars suspended from transparent wire, to be used in her next show.

Despite her fragile medium, Aline wants her creations to be used. "It's so much nicer to have to a gorgeous dish or vase that you use regularly and, which gives you tons of pleasure than to put things on a shelf to gather dust. I believe in interaction with your loved objects." ♦

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Handkerchief vases