

# Tina Cooper Glass

International Hot Glass Artist

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*It is Tina's ability to enter the realm of the subconscious, which makes her work so incredibly unique. This inherent quality ensures her own immortality is carried within each piece. Her aim is to record history through her own perspective, using hot glass, wood and iron as her mediums.*

## Tina Cooper's Life Story

Tina Cooper grew up in the Island of Jersey in the Channel Islands. Her memories are of large stone castles in the horizon and fishing villages at beautiful harbours filled with sailing boats.

She spent her time as a young girl fossicking around the amazing rock pools on the coastline, exploring the sea life and other interesting things. Tina enjoyed lazy days on the beautiful beaches, building sandcastles and exploring the land around her.

Her parents migrated to Brisbane in 1966 and she found herself once again exploring the pine forests in her imaginary world that she has always created.

Throughout the start of her life, she had a passion for horses and pushing every boundary with them. Learning to be as one, exploring connection with animals and working together as a team.

An unfortunate accident with her favourite horse, was challenging, but the most rewarding experience – “Atta Boy” finished Tina's horse career.

There have been many directions Tina has explored to find her place in life, where she feels that what she is doing matters.

She has explored other mediums, never feeling that any of these experiences defined her, only that it filled her head space for the time being. Tina would only lose interest when a better challenge came along.

## The Beginnings of Tina Cooper's Glass Career

Tina's destiny unfolded way back in 1991, with a chance meeting with two local glass blowers, Mark Galton and Lucas Salton. Both working out of The Dome Glass Blowing Studio, Montville. They were both working for Chris Pantano – Tina was about to have the ‘OMG’ moment of her life!

At this point, she was 30 years old and a single mother, to her young daughter, Jasmin-Lee. Looking for a new direction in life after fighting a long-term illness, desperate to enjoy her life to the fullest once more.

Tina was invited to view the glass blowers in action. It was a deer in the head light situation!

She walked in as if she had been there before and it felt familiar, even the smells. There were instant goose bumps all over her body! All Tina knew was that this was her destiny, down to the very last cell in her body. She had found the place and the tribe she was looking for, finally.

She had no formal training in glass and once this meeting took place, her destiny did twists and turns to make way for this to be her new path.

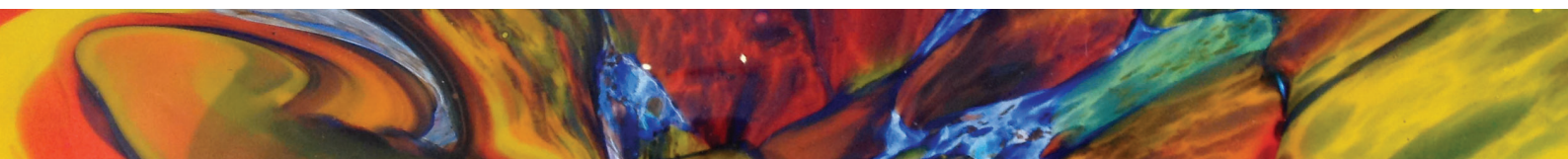
Tina says, if you truly believe in what you want, you go for it 120%. Driven by passion and discipline, with mind and heart always looking forward.

Leaving your pain and struggle behind, this leaves room for a new path to unfold.

You can't miss out on opportunities – if you shoot for the moon and miss, you will fall into the stars!

Tina took up the challenge and joined one of the glass blowers, Mark, in this new adventure. Mark was also looking for a new direction in his career as well.

Within a few months, Tina moved back to the Range and took up the tools that felt all so familiar, stepping into the unknown as a glass apprentice at the age of 30 years old.





Tina worked for two years in exchange for glass blowing skills, and she was able to sell her very first piece of work at the markets.

The studio they worked in was very naive, made up of second-hand material and old tools, but fuelled by two very excited artists taking up the challenge. Out on their own, they had a winning combination.

After a very short time, Tina was heavily involved in design of the new art glass. Mark could see the potential of combining the two different energies together, so that is when Martini Glass was established.

Mark and Tina sold their works at Eumundi Markets on a small card table on the Saturday, then at Riverside Market on the Sunday. Over the years they ended up selling to over 20 galleries around Australia.

Martini Glass is still highly collectable by glass collectors around the world, who still want a piece for their collection.

Mark was only responsible for teaching Tina the very basic glass blowing skills and Tina feels she is basically self-taught and developed most of her skills after travelling the world working with different teams of skilled glass blowers and doing workshops with her mentors from the USA, NZ, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Italy and England.

Now her life started as a glass blower and she never realised the roller coaster ride she would have to endure for most of her glass career.

Early mornings, packing and wrapping, putting in 7 days a week, grinding and finishing the pieces! Debt collector, accountant, salesperson, interior designer and more are all the qualities Tina needed to be successful in this career choice.

Tina has had 9 studios and 8 gallery changes over the years. She has finally brought her dream of 17 years to life, to have her own home and studio with an exhibition and gallery space all within the one home.

Tina's home exudes a vibe that would heal any visitor of stress in their life. Her privately owned piece of paradise has a view that overlooks Baroon Pocket Dam, on an acre of landscaped gardens with sculptures on every level. Tina also offers her personal time and interior design skills to assist you in your choices.

She feels that she is a very lucky person to go to work and have fun making stuff with liquid glass, hot stuff that brings out her passion to make great things.

Tina loves to record history through her eyes, as she experiences life itself in a different way. She creates with more of a feeling and then a sight intake, that moves her to want to recreate that time and the experience which has deeply moved her. This way, other people can experience what Tina has, through her art.

Tina's love for large expressive hot art glass pieces demands an excellence from herself and her team who are masters in this medium. Her willingness to experiment and to always challenge the medium, by incorporating many elements, is a passion of hers.

Working in collaboration with other artists and mediums, using the elements of fire and brimstone, excites the glass tribe that have the same passion running through their veins – HOT MOLTEN GLASS!

Tina travels the world seeking out Master Glass Blower Workshops, giving her a chance to hone her skills. By developing her own artistic style of Glass Art, this has made Tina one of Australia's leading Glass Art Blowers and Designers.

Tina draws on influences from Mother Nature, life experiences, myth and indigenous culture. Her art speaks of human origins, it symbolizes a harmony between humanity and nature, life and death. These pieces have a sense of spirituality, as if the artwork speaks to you – mesmerizing her collectors from around the world.

### Master Glass Blowers

To reach Tina's high skill level, she was inspired by and trained over many years under a number of master glass blowers. These master glass blowers include William Morris, Lino Tagliapietra, Dante Marioni, Pino Signoretto, Richard Clements, Nick Mount, Ruth King, Chuck Simpson, Dick Marquis and Jane Cowey.

