

## Fused glass objects – Inger Boman

*Glass fusing* is the process of using a kiln to join together pieces of glass under high temperature (up to 835 degrees Celsius). If you apply heat to glass, it will soften. If you continue to apply heat, the glass will become more fluid and flow together. Two or more pieces of glass will stick (or "fuse") to each other. When the right kind of glass is heated and then cooled properly, the resulting fused glass piece will be solid and unbroken.

Many people also use the word "fusing" to include bending and shaping glass using the heat of a kiln. This manipulation can take many forms, but the most common is *slumping*, where a mold is used to cause already fused glass to take on the shape of a bowl, a plate, or similar object.

These pieces of handicraft are made of Bulls Eye Glass.

Most of the jewelry also include Dichroic Glass, which is a multi-layer coating placed on glass by using a highly technical vacuum deposition process. Quartz Crystal and Metal Oxides are vaporised onto the surface of the glass in the form of a crystal structure. Dichroic Colours have as many as 30 layers of these materials yet the thickness of the total coating is approximately 35 millionths of an inch. The coating that is created is very similar to a gemstone and by careful control in thickness, different colours are obtained. Thus, all dichroic coatings are created using the same exact materials.

