The Method of Dichroic Glassmaking

The name "Dichroic" originates from DI meaning two and CHROIC meaning color. Dichroic as related to art glass means two color or basically, color transmitted through the glass and color reflected from the surface of the glass. Together, the reflected and transmitted light produce a unique two color effect that can be identified by viewing the glass from the front (looking straight on) and when the glass is turned approximately 45 degrees.

The technology used to make Dichroic glass developed in the late 1880s. After WWII, the military and space industries developed Dichroic technology in a vast variety of optical instruments including lasers. It is just within the last 20 years that Dichroic glass has been incorporated in the art glass movement.

Dichroic glass is made in a high-tech vacuum process where beams of electrons vaporize metal oxides. These vaporized metal oxides become a thin crystalline film on the surface of the glass. The design of the crystalline film acts as a filter to generate many small reflections. These reflections interact with each other to create the beautiful rainbows of color we know as Dichroic Art Glass.

To fully experience the beauty of Dichroic glass, the piece must be held in your hands and viewed so the change of light and color can be seen.

GLASS EYE STUDIO