

# Randi Solin

Solinglass



Brattleboro, Vermont

## Story

Solinglass is a glassblowing studio in Brattleboro, Vermont. Before the pandemic, owner and glassblower Randi Solin would host classes at the studio for all experience levels four to five times a year. In addition to being a workspace, Solinglass was also a destination and an educational experience, where visitors could view the glass being made. Brattleboro and the surrounding community has been supportive in return--often sending tourists Randi's way as a location to check out. Randi enjoys chatting with both tourists and locals about the community and other businesses.

## Community

Randi founded the glassblowing studio after college. Even though she didn't have much of an art background, Randi had an intense passion for glass sculpting. Originally, Randi was planning on studying political science because she wanted to change people's lives. Randi has been blowing glass since she was 19 years old. After college she moved to San Jose, California to teach. Eventually, Randi came back to the East and settled down in Brattleboro after struggling to find proper studio space in Burlington. Currently, Solinglass is located in a large studio within Fire Arts Vermont, which also hosts a ceramic studio and a gallery. Randi's work can be seen all across the United States, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. As a successful artist, Randi always strives to be better and never finds herself satisfied. Although her work doesn't have a "functional" purpose, her audience isn't looking for functionality. Many of the people who buy her work admire it for the beauty and the physical tranquility the meditative pieces bring. Randi is still living her original truth of changing people's lives through a creative, tangible medium.

## Right Now

The pandemic has significantly affected Solinglass. Currently, galleries that display Randi's work are closed, and all future shows have been canceled. Despite the suddenness of the pandemic and the deep financial burden it has caused, Solin has gotten creative in adapting new workshops to the realities of the pandemic. She is hosting a sandcasting workshop this fall, where she will use a 6-foot-long ladle to pour molten glass into participant-made molds. Although she is not producing the same amount of fine art glass as she was before, Randi is working on reimagining the future of Solinglass and what it can do for the community.



Photo credit: Emily Bourne

## Final Words

Randi's emphasis on community does not stop with Brattleboro. She says that Vermont as a whole is a great place to be self employed because of the strong creative community. Not only is Vermont a fantastic place for creatives to live, but Vermonter's attitudes toward new residents is welcoming as a whole. Randi describes it as a "tight knit community of support...but open," where although the community has a strong core that does not mean it is exclusive. Especially during an era of a pandemic, Vermonters everywhere are showing their strength and support for the community and becoming even more united.

Written by Emily Adams  
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“So many people are self employed creatives here, you're not the weirdo.”

<https://www.randisolinglass.com>