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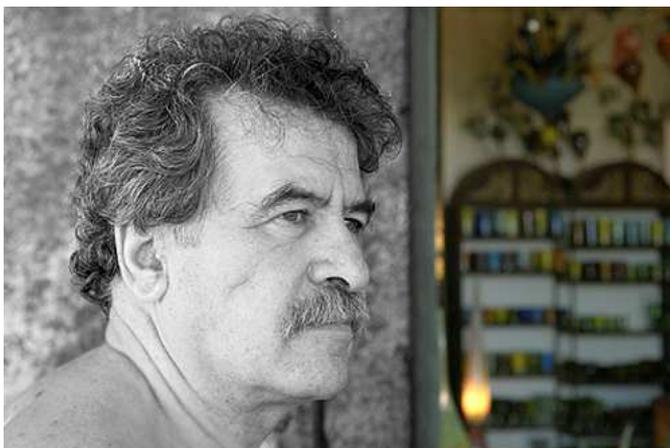
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**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**  
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

## **Recycling already 23 years ago a theme on Crete: Inspiration and Vision: Vitreous art by *Andreas Tzompanakis***

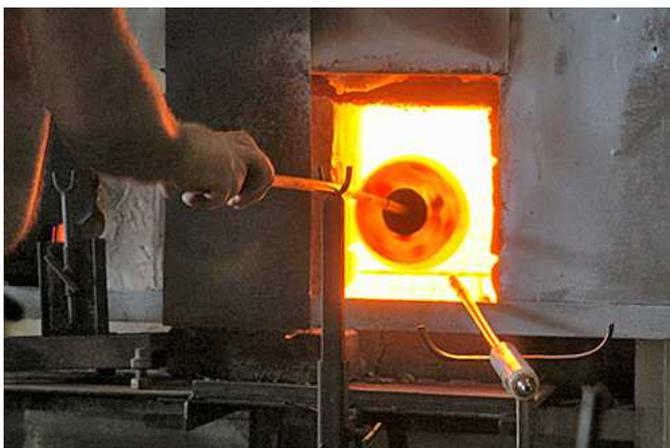
An article from our member *Maria Eleftheria*, Agios Nektarios / South Crete

In 1986 when most Greeks have been at loose ends with the word recycling, Andreas Tzompanakis (see fig. left) opened his factory in his native village **Kokkino Chorio** and began to establish the first works of art from glass he collected (see fig. right). Twenty-three years have been passed since. The kiln from the early days is now decorative integrated in the shop, and been replaced by a larger, more modern oven.



Every day (except Monday) the glassblowers can be seen at their work between of 8 am and 3 pm. The glass is first melted at the top of the glass making pipe at a temperature 1400-1500 degrees Celsius and then brought in form at 1200 degrees Celsius. There is much experience needed to see the right temperature of the glass and then to handle it correctly.

But the two glass-blowers of Andreas Tzompanakis are a well trained team. They understand each other without words; in their quiet, accurate movements they are akin to dancers, while in the heat of the kiln a unique work of glass art accrues bit by bit. In this place the magic of unique born in the fire is noticeable. The colors of the island of Crete are reflected in them.



While blowing the glowing sum receives its first form, he colour scheme is affected by application of various substances, whose composition is the well kept secret of the artist, and the final shape results in a change of heat, air and skill, always under the probing gaze of the glassblower who know exactly how and when something is possible with the glass melt – as for example the emergence of a flat lampshade as shown with the below pictures.



If the work is succeeded it will be removed from the glass making pipe and slowly cooled by a temperature from 800 ° C to 150 ° C over several hours. Only the subsequent quality control will show whether the artwork is spot-less.



You get to the glass blowing workshop of Andreas Tzompanakis in Kokkino Chorio while driving on the North coast of Crete, East of Chania, from the village Kalives towards the village Plaka. In the well-known resort of Almirida, you follow the road along the sea until you reach the junction on the left to Plaka. In Plaka even stay on the wide main street, until you get to the end of the village where you must turn right uphill to Kambia. In Kambia, a sign indicates towards Kokkino Chorio. Once there, turn right at the first crossroads after the village entrance sign. Here you see the building of glass blowing workshop already left. The showroom (see fig.) is daily open

from 8 am to 8 pm.

Another leaflet about glass blowing at South Crete (at Agia Galini) can be found at: <http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter/098-05E.pdf>

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

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