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POP CULTURE

What I'm Into ...



Tiffany Ackerman blows a mean glass bowl. Here she is showing off some of her work in the hot room at Flame Run Gallery and Studio. (John Rott)

Tiffany Ackerman has been playing clarinet since she was 10 and studied painting in college, but all along she knew that she wanted to be a glass artist. Today, Tiffany creates great works of art at Flame Run Gallery and Studio in Louisville, where she also serves as office manager.

To be a glassblower, Tiffany must work with heavy materials in hot rooms, but that's exactly why she loves it. "It's real physical so it makes me feel like super strong woman," the 27-year-old said. "I like going in there and feeling strong. It gets your blood pumping."

Here's what else blows Tiffany away.

-- *Javacia N. Harris*

Art

Some of Tiffany's favorite glass artists are **Devyn Baron**, **Stephen Rolfe Powell** and her boss **Brook White**. "You can just lose yourself in the colors," she said of Powell's work.

She's also a fan of painters **Marc Chagall** and **Alice Neal** and the pop art of **Andy Warhol**.

Tiffany likes to get her art fix at **Museum 21c**, 700 W. Main St., and she loves browsing through the arty gift shop **Scout**, 801 E. Market St. "I go in there, and I want one of everything,"

Music

According to Tiffany, **ska** and **reggae** are "good glass-blowing music to get you going."

The Gainesville, Fla., native said her favorite ska band is **Less Than Jake**. "They're from my hometown, so when I listen to them, I think of my girls back home. It makes me feel good."

Tiffany's music tastes, however, range from **classical** to **Coldplay**. She also likes **the Shins, U2** and the **Dixie Chicks**. "I don't think there's a girl in the world who doesn't like the Dixie Chicks," she said. "It makes you feel alive."

Movies

Tiffany admits she's a sucker for **Disney movies** and **romantic comedies**. Some of her favorite movies include "**Kissing a Fool**" and "**Gone in Sixty Seconds**."

But her favorite film of all time is the Robin Williams-Nathan Lane comedy "**The Birdcage**," simply because it's so damn funny. "You could have just run over my dog and it would still be funny."

Television

"I watch too much TV," Tiffany confessed. She's a big fan of "**Family Guy**" (Fox) and she loves catching old episodes of "**The Golden Girls**." "I can quote every episode." And though "**Firefly**" is long gone, she still watches it on DVD.

Reading

"I've read every **Harry Potter** book, like, seven times," Tiffany said. "I'm a little kid at heart."

Her reading list doesn't stop with **J.K. Rowling**. She enjoyed Helen Ellis' "**Eating the Cheshire Cat**" and counts "**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**" as one of her favorites. Right now, she's re-reading "**Valley of the Dolls**."

Food & Drink

When it's time to dine out, Tiffany heads to **Ramsi's**, 1293 Bardstown Road. When she wants something closer to her Lyndon home, she opts for the **Los Aztecas**, 1107 Herr Lane. "It's cheap, it's good and it's fast."

She also likes the offerings at **Shiraz**, 2011 Frankfort Ave., and **The Irish Rover**, 2319 Frankfort Ave. Tiffany also digs **Bank Shot Billiards**, 403 E. Market St. "I used to be there every night. I wanted to be a pool shark."

Etc.

Tiffany spends a lot of her free time **knitting** and doing other crafts like **creating stained glass and mosaic glass art**. Most of all, though, she likes to just **kick back and relax** with her boyfriend and her cats.

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