

## Marta goes to top of the (glass) class

**We are delighted to welcome a recent 'casual member' to the Guild, a glass artist whose expertise and versatility stretch well beyond her creative capabilities.**

Marta Cabral (right) an 'educator, researcher, artist and consultant', is visiting Brisbane from New York for six months, accompanying her partner who has a temporary work posting here.

Born in Lisbon, Marta was educated in Portugal and later China, but now resides permanently in Brooklyn, New York, where she continues to learn and expand her knowledge of different art materials and ideas.

Back home, Marta is Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Teachers College, where she teaches graduate level courses in Art & Art Education and supervises student teachers in PreK-12 art rooms.

As an artist-in-residence and research fellow, she is particularly involved in artistic practices and experiences in early childhood education, and currently runs the Rita Gold Early Childhood Center's art program at Columbia University for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

In New York, Marta works closely with UrbanGlass, a learning centre that provides classes in a variety of glassmaking techniques designed for young artists

aged from 11 to 18. The workshops aim to introduce students to the wonderful world of glass, with a view to expanding the breadth and depth of their art-making activities.



Working with young children, Marta never fails to be impressed by their invention and improvisation.

"With their working knowledge of watercolor, tempera, glass, clay, wood glue, and paper glue, these kids arguably know more about materials than some grad students," she divulges.

Marta also co-presents 'Glass in our Class', a course designed for teachers and parents who wish to learn more about glass, and ways to introduce it to their classrooms, art rooms or home. Through different explorations with glass, based on fusing, kiln forming and flameworking, participants discuss ways of integrating glass into their curricula.

Although she has been in Australia for only a short time, Marta isn't letting the grass (or is that glass?) grow under her feet. At the invitation of the State Library of Queensland, she has already conducted a workshop in Toowoomba for librarians and educators, to support 'confidence around communications and learning' in the early years.

If you're around Red Hill any time soon, say 'hello' to Marta who will be working on her glass projects most Mondays.



Budding young artists are introduced to the glass arts at UrbanGlass, a New York centre that provides classes in techniques to expand the breadth of children's art-making activities.