

hot shot

Glass blowing is far from a delicate, feminine artform, says 29-year-old Nicole Ayliffe.

"When you're in the hot shop and it's 1200 degrees, it's definitely very physically demanding," she says.

"It's really technical and it's quite difficult to learn how to do it, but it's just a really exciting medium to work with."

Nicole's works aren't typical fragile glass pieces either - each of her Optical Landscapes vases weigh at least a few kilos, and are made of such thick glass you would expect the floor, not the vase, to come off the worse if they were dropped.

Yet the pieces still possess a delicate beauty, with the thick glass acting as a lens to emphasise the patterns Nicole has etched into the back.

She says the wavy line patterns represent those found in rural Australia such as vineyard rows or ploughed fields.

"The reason I started doing this on glass was because there was a landscape painter, Ian Burn, who had this quote which was that a landscape is something you look through, not something you look at," she says.

"So it was like creating shots looking through at an image, rather than something flat and two dimensional."

Having specialised in both glasswork and photography during her Bachelor of Visual Arts at the University of South Australia,



Glass artist Nicole Ayliffe finds the medium exciting to work with

Ayliffe has also created a range of pieces with her own landscape photographs fused into the glass.

One of her works has been included in the National Glass Collection in the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, and she is presently working on some pieces to send to Taiwan for a glass exhibition.

A selection of Nicole's work is at Fireflies, City Cross Arcade, Adelaide.