

**David Ruth: Antarctic Cast Glass  
Collection CAE2214**

**Introduction/Abstract**

While in residence at Palmer Station in the Antarctic Peninsula area, artist David Ruth and his assistant made ephemeral ice studies and small cast glass sculptures which became the basis for subsequent studio work.

**Biographical Note: David Ruth**

David Ruth is an Oakland-based glass sculptor who started working in glass in 1970 and has been making large-scale cast glass sculptures that range from small architectural features to large public installations ever since. Often featuring bright colors and contrasting polished surfaces with rough-hewn textures, the work has been featured in architecture, including [Tokyo DisneySea](#) in Japan, and shown in galleries around the world. In 2006 Ruth received an award from the National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program for him and his assistant, Art Quinn, to work at Palmer Station for five weeks. The exploration and work from this residency became the foundation to his more recent work, a larger series “Chill,” which includes his Antarctic works and other series, such as “Geologic Editions,” sculptures formed of composite patterns of rock and ice taken from both Antarctica and landscapes in North America. Ruth considers this formulation of colored and low-expansion glasses to represent a continental collision in deep time. The largest work from this series, “Colorado Cascade,” was installed as a private commission in Vail, Co in 2017. The thirty panels are for a window 7-meters square.

Ruth earned an M.F.A. from the California College of Arts and Crafts and in 1987 a B.A. in American History from Porter College, UC Santa Cruz. David Ruth was a student of the pioneering Basque-French artist, who in 1954 opened a hot glass studio in Los Angeles, the first in America since Louis Comfort Tiffany’s stained glass studio closed decades earlier.

**Scope and Content**

While in residence at Palmer Station on Anvers Island in the Antarctic Peninsula area, artist David Ruth worked with his assistant Art Quinn to make both a series of ephemeral ice studies from harvested ice and small cast glass sculptures based on silicon mold impressions of ice fragments. These studies and small works became the basis for subsequent studio work.

Materials include documents, digital video, and digital images.

**This archive is currently in process.**