The Glasmuseum Hentrich in Dusseldorfs Museum Kunst Palast, one of the worlds most wide-ranging glass collections, is the basis for this illustrated exploration of glass art, written by the collections longtime director, Helmut Ricke. Glass was the first man-made material, and nearly every civilization made use of its flexibility, resilience and variety. Containing images from the collection as well as maps and drawings, this volume covers all periods of glass-making from pre-Roman, Roman, Islamic, Mediaeval, Renaissance and Baroque times, the 19th century, and up to the 1990s. It includes examples of enamelled and cut glass, as well as elaborate works from Persia, India and China, all of which influenced the Art Nouveau period, widely considered the heyday of decorative glass. A detailed appendix provides background information on the mechanics of glass, including smelting, refining and manufacturing.

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