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## Creating Mirrored Surfaces on Cast Glass

**ZYP's BN Glass Release DMX Powder: An exceptional release agent for cast glass**



Images from “Mirrors of the Third Dimension” with Joanna Manousis, a Bullseye Glass class from December 7, 2024. The left image shows Bullseye glass cast in a mold coated with BN Glass Release Brushable DMX, and the right image shows the same piece of glass after mirroring.

In studies to create mirrored surfaces on cast glass, a defect- and crystallite-free surface is necessary prior to the silvering process. Joanna Manousis has studied and executed mirroring on cast glass extensively at the National Glass Centre in England as part of her PhD work. The work included testing using the following ZYP products:

- BN Lubriccoat
- BN Lubriccoat-ZS
- Type ZO
- BN Glass Release Spray
- BN Glass Release DMX Powder

For each product, three coats were applied to plaster molds prior to glass casting. Three different glasses were cast: Gaffer billet (30% lead), Reichenbach billet (30% lead) and Bullseye billet (soda lime).

In all cases except for when BN Glass Release Spray was used, the glass was clear and free of devitrification, leading to a reflective surface after mirroring. Though the BN Glass Release Spray did appear to cause light devitrification on the glass surface, all ZYP products provided clean release of the glass after casting.

The BN Glass Release DMX Powder was reported to perform exceptionally well. It was mixed in a ratio of 10 parts isopropyl alcohol to 1 part powder, and applied to both wet and dry plaster molds. The resulting paint was described as “incredibly durable” on the plaster surface, in that the coating survives pre-firing of the empty mold as well as casting. The Bullseye billet (soda lime) was reported to provide the clearest, cleanest surface when [BN Glass Release DMX Powder](#), mixed with 10 parts isopropyl alcohol, was used as the mold release coating

**JOANNA MANOUSIS** is a British / American artist creating sculpture and jewelry in glass, mirror, and mixed media. Her work often imitates other materials, creating shifts in perception and an altered sense of reality for the viewer. Joanna is currently a PhD candidate at The National Glass Centre, England, and holds an MFA and BFA in glass and sculpture. Her work has been recognized with nominations for the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award and a Bombay Sapphire Award Nomination for ‘Excellence in Glass’ as well as the Margaret M. Mead Award and the Hans Godo Frabel Award. Joanna has worked, studied, and taught in Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia, and has offered classes for Bullseye Glass Co. since 2014.

See more of her work at [joannamanousis.com](http://joannamanousis.com).