**Item #:1 Replacement Value – Cost New: $875.00**

**Category: Decorative Accessories**

**Subcategory: Art Glass**

**Weight/Height: 2.00 lbs. / Height 9”, Width 5”**

**Type:** Aubergine Vase “Climbing”

**Material:** Cameo Glass

**Date:** 2009

**Origin:** Fenton Art Glass was founded in 1905 by brothers Frank L. and John W. Fenton. They began their business In Martins Ferry, Ohio, by painting decorations on glassware made by nearby manufacturers. Prompted in part by the desire to work with a broader range of colors, the brothers soon decided to produce their own glass, and opened the Fenton Art Glass factory in Williamstown, West Virginia in 1907. In fact, Fenton introduced "iridescent ware" later that same year. Now known as "Carnival" glass, it's a popular collectible item today. Traditional glassmaking ceased in 2011. Today the company continues by creating handcrafted art glass jewelry using many of the traditional Fenton colors and techniques, such as Milk Glass, Vasa Murrhina and Carnival Glass beads.

**Maker:** Fenton

**Inscription:** Signed by artists Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp and numbered 32 of 75.

**Title:** “Climbing”

**Subject:** Undulating climbing vine of Clematis blooms and leaves.

**Description:** Beautiful 9” vase made of Aubergine cased in milked glass. The vase is titled “Climbing” and features a lush floral design. On the bottom of the vase is the word “Climbing”, the Fenton script “F USA” logo, the signatures of Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp, and the number of the piece “32”, limited to 75 pieces.

**Features:** Cameo carving is a painstaking process. After the glass has been annealed, a special mask is taped to the surface of the glass. Using an advanced "vignette" technique, each piece is carefully sand carved, by hand, using aluminum oxide crystal under pressure to take away some of the surface. Great individual skill and experience are needed to control this operation, as many distinct stages of successive cameo carving are required to create the remarkable depth and the intricate details.

**Provenance:** Estate of William E. and Betty J. Topworth, Philadelphia, PA.

**Condition:** Excellent, free of chipping and cracks.

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