Original Artwork for Home and Wear

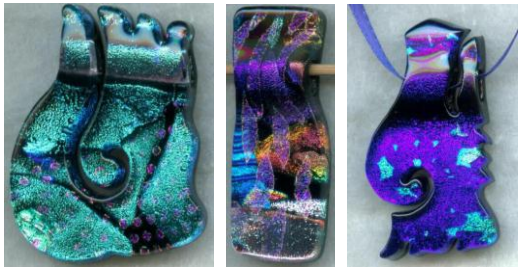
Each item I make and place on display is an original and unique piece of art. While there are no duplicates, there may be similar items within any given group.

Ten years ago I enrolled in a fused glass class taught by Lesley Nolan. This electrified my desire to make my own fused and dichroic glass pendants, as well as experiment with other glass forms. My love for the look and feel of glass has led me to focus many of my creative efforts in the glass medium.

The pendants, dishes, sun catchers, and wind chimes I make often include a wide variety and large number of smaller pieces of glass that form the pattern or picture. Once all trace of cutting oil, fingerprints, and dust has been washed from each piece of glass, the pattern is assembled and the artwok is placed in the kiln for its first firing. There are often dozens, even hundreds of pieces of glass, depending on the design and project involved.

Depending on the project, each piece may need to be fired three, four, or more times to capture the intended colors and shape. At a minimum, a vase, bowl, or candle holder will usually require two firings: In the first firing, the kiln will be heated to approximately 1500 F degrees to melt or fuse the layers and colors into one flat piece of glass. The second firing, to 1300 F degrees, will slump or drape the glass over or into a mold to give the piece the desired shape.

Pendants are also made of several layers of glass and require at least one firing to 1500 F degrees. It is often necessary to reshape the piece and "fire polish" it, firing the piece to 1300 F degrees and holding it at that temperature for a few minutes. Once fired, all pieces require about 12 hours to cool to room temperature before removing them from the kiln.



Many of my pendants include a specialty glass known as DICHROIC GLASS.

"Dichroic" is defined as the property of having more than one color, especially when viewed from different angles. It is a high-tech spin-off of the space industry. Thin layers of metallic oxides such as titanium, silicon, and magnesium are deposited on the surface of the glass in a high temperature, vacuum furnace. The glass to be coated is carefully cleaned and fastened to a planetary arm in the top of the furnace chamber. The oxides are placed on a crucible on the bottom of the chamber. Air inside the chamber is removed with a high vacuum-producing cryo-pump, and the chamber is heated to 300 F degrees. The metallic oxides are vaporized by an electron beam and the rotating glass target is evenly coated with many thin layers. The resulting color is determined by the individual oxide compositions.

(The information on Dichroic Glass has been taken from A&A Products web pages on "Coatings by Sandberg, Inc.")

Nearly 15 years ago I enrolled in a jewelry fabrication class, and though I chose not to pursue the style being taught, it lit a fire. Since that time I have made my way to wire wrapping by experimentation, allowing a natural expansion of my art in which I can combine my love of color with my fascination for fluid lines. I find I like the

look and feel of copper most of all and use it extensively, though not exclusively. I also make jewelry pieces out of nickel silver, sterling silver, brass, and a copper and zinc alloy known as "rich-low gold" or "Hamilton's gold." Once a shape is determined, the piece will be adorned, often using glass or metal beads and polished natural stones.

In 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 I taught a beginners glass fusing class. It has been enriching for me as a person, a teacher, and an artist to spend time with others who wanted to learn from me. I received knowledge as well as inspiration. For me, learning is fun and an important part of the life experience.

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