

Vitreous Things

Dichroic Jewelry & Gifts

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ARTIST STATEMENT

I was born in Sacramento, California. My love of working with glass started in my High School art class when I learned the craft of Stained Glass and made my first large window. After I graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, I permanently moved to Oakland, California where I took up my professional career as a Microbiologist and cosmetic formulator for a cosmetic manufacturer. While working, I spent 5 years taking classes at San Francisco State University to get a MBA then decided to take some fun classes in glass fusing and lampworking. Since then, I have been working during the day as a cosmetic chemist and microbiologist and in the evenings as a glass artist. Within the past 13 years, I have learned methods of glass fusing, lampwork bead making, and various furnace techniques including glass blowing. The delicate brittle yet flowing characteristics of glass have always intrigued me. I have always preferred glass to any other medium and am drawn to the silky smooth feel and appearance whether the surface is shiny or been etched to a satiny dull finish.

The majority of my current work is using a method called glass fusing. Glass fusing incorporates cold cutting pieces of glass then melting them together in a kiln at 1450-1600 F. Once the glass has been melted together, it can be shaped into or over various molds in another firing at a lower temperature. I incorporate a variety of different forms of glass & metals into my designs. Most of my jewelry contains dichroic glass which is a glass that has been coated with metals in a vacuum chamber to give a brilliantly reflective coating in different colors. I often create my own unique patterns and designs in the dichroic glass using acid etching before I combine it with other glasses. When I design a piece, I usually start with a color combination that intrigues me. I have always been attracted to uses of colors ever since I first started using crayons & coloring books as a child. Once I decide on a color combination, I then apply the design & shape that I feel will show off the combination best or to create a specific feel such as fun, elegant, striking, etc.

I describe my jewelry as bright and energetic blending a variety of colors to achieve striking effects that will be fun and make people feel good when they are wearing it. I create abstract designs that give maximum exposure to the colors and the reflective nature of the dichroic glass. I enjoy randomly combining layers of colors to experiment as you never quite know what it will look like when it is all melted together - this makes each design unique and creative.

