

Even though I was born and raised in New Orleans, a city filled with stained glass, it never really hit me until my sister-in-law showed me a panel she'd made. I thought it was so pretty, and decided I wanted to try and make one for myself. So in 1983 I took my first stained glass class, and right from the start, I was hooked! It was a 14" square panel with an iris in the center, and though my first piece was far from perfect, I loved it and found the craft fascinating.

With an associate's degree in Engineering Graphics, I worked for several years as a draftsman back in the days before computers when everything was drawn by hand. I had always enjoyed sewing, and other crafts, because I love to work with my hands. Working with stained glass just seemed like a natural combination of the drafting and the crafts. It was the perfect creative outlet for me.

As I became more proficient, I soon had a caliber of product that I could proudly offer for sale. Soon, I began to exhibit my work in art and craft shows and took on my first commission pieces. I also became interested in glass fusing and purchased my first kiln. Soon after that, I was introduced to bead making, and out of that grew a natural interest in using those beads to make jewelry.

In 1987, my husband was transferred to Lexington, KY and after we moved, I soon settled in to the local art glass community. I continued to exhibit in shows, and in 1990 I was juried in to the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program. Then in 1995, I took the plunge into full-time entrepreneurship when I took over our local stained glass shop that would have otherwise closed. Since then, I've had the great privilege of working with hundreds of students, teaching them the art of making stained glass.

I've drawn much of my inspiration from the stained glass works of Frank Lloyd Wright, using my drafting tools to create the designs and shapes that are prevalent in his work. I love glass, in all its forms. I've always been attracted to the variations in colors and textures, and I love working with it. I find melting a rod of glass with a torch especially fascinating. There is no challenge I enjoy more than assembling a leaded panel, with the individual pieces like a puzzle coming together into a beautiful work of art.

Today, my store's logo bears the same iris motif that I started with 25 years ago. After all these years of creating stained glass, I've never lost my passion for it. I only hope when others look at my work, they get as much joy out of it, as I did in creating it.