

Three Dimensional Art in Glass, Fiber and Bronze

Art can be expressed in many forms other than the traditional mediums of oil paint and watercolor. These artists have found inspiration and passion in working with three dimensional objects and forming them into deeply personal and expressive art objects.

“Fluid in movement and full of energy”



Fused dichroic glass leaf by Cherrie La Porte

Cherrie La Porte (www.cherrielaporte.com) is a dichroic glass jeweler, a contemporary art glass and bronze sculpture artist. Her images are reminiscent of nature, of graceful, unusual forms revved up with color and light. It is easy to see Cherrie’s playful spirit and energy inside her art. Her strong use of color, and richly patterned textures are fluid in movement and full of energy. “I want people to get a boost of energy and a sense of color added to their life whether they wear my jewelry or add a glass art piece to their home or garden. Energy and inspiration are my objectives.”

In describing her work Cherrie says, “I design and handcraft my distinctive art glass collection, jewelry and bronze sculpture to capture arrays of texture, color and form in a collection that stirs and inspires the imagination. My collection varies from a mixed blend of glass, bronze, metal and found objects from jewelry to large architectural glass installations and life size bronze sculptures. My glass jewelry is meant to make a statement; it is causal richness with tribal colors, meant to be bold and elegant yet playful.”

A few of Cherrie’s favorite artists are James Hubbell, Frank O. Gehry, and William Morris. However her strongest inspiration is closer to home and comes from within. Counting herself lucky, Cherrie observes “I have an inner drive to do what I like and want to do. I am self motivated and have taught myself to do most of my creations. Through much experimentation and exploring I have created a business doing what I love to do most. Garry Cohen, (my artist husband) has been instrumental in pushing me further and has given me a platform on which we have been able to perform together with our concept of Glass Ranch. With his years of experience as an artist, he assists my growth by refining my artist skills and vision which comes so naturally to him.”

The Glass Ranch in Del Dios near Lake Hodges in Escondido, is an inspiration and showcase of glass art created by Cherrie and Garry. At this studio location they are able to keep a variety of projects going at the same time. There is a room for fused glass sculpture and jewelry pieces and a room for assembling the jewelry. “This enables me to work on what I feel inspired to do at that moment after reviewing what inventory I need to create for my clients and what materials I have on hand.”

The outdoor garden offers another level of inspiration as well as gallery. “I have space to work on my garden art like the dichroic mobiles and windows I create. These are laid out and worked on when I feel motivated. Sometimes I pause from that and actually work in the garden which is my favorite thing to do. I am lucky to have all this at my home which gives me the most inspiration since it is so beautiful at the Glass Ranch.”

Cherrie and Garry also blow glass in their hot shop studio on the property. Together they work out colors, shapes and forms of hand blown glass. It is an ideal partnership, “I assist him in his creations, he gives me ideas for my own.”

“Basketry is the ultimate in recycling”

Nadine Spier (www.nadinespier.com) is a Contemporary Woven Vessel artist. Her beautiful creations are woven from a Guatemalan Pine Tree she had planted in her yard. The thread she uses to stitch with is linen, a natural fiber, imported from Belfast, Ireland. Since her work is portable, she has her weaving materials on hand so she can weave at any opportunity. Nadine’s style of basketry has evolved over the years to create a completely unique style. “I first learned basketry at an adult education evening class in the 1980’s. We were taught a fairly rustic style using raffia and torrey pine needles. But I like very minute detail and refined work, so I went on to study books to learn fancy stitches, and changed my materials to Irish Linen thread and flexible tropical pine needles so I could create the detailed work that satisfied me. Eventually my work evolved from traditionally shaped baskets to more sculptural forms. I then devised a way to weave around stones and other unique objects and my current work incorporates these as a focal point.”



Inflorescence by Nadine Spier

The form Nadine’s art takes is very much a part of her identity, “I’ve been an environmentalist for 25 years and a strong advocate of protecting the Earth and recycling Her resources. Therefore, discovering basket weaving was a magical discovery for me, a natural extension of my passion for Nature. It is important to me that my art can be made from materials gently harvested from Nature. Basketry is the ultimate in recycling.”



Nancy by Laurenn Barker

In noting her inspirations, the book “Trust the Process” by Shaun McNiff is mentioned by Nadine as containing many valuable concepts that helped her to unleash new areas of creativity, enabling her to express through her woven vessels her love of nature and freedom, in flowing graceful forms.

“A positive spirit and message”

Laurenn Barker (www.expressionstudio.net) is a realistic figurative sculptor, who also branches out into other styles for commissioned work.

She has been inspired by Renoir for his outlook. Laurenn says, “When Renoir was criticized for “doing pretty art” he said something to the effect of “Why do I want to do ugly; there’s enough of that in the world... I want to remind people of the beautiful in life.” In keeping with many sculptors she is in debt to Michelangelo, the master sculptor, and counts as modern influences all of the Loveland, Colorado artists, especially Victor Issa with whom she studied, as well as Arizona artist John Coleman. Although she does not do western art, Laurenn admires Coleman’s freedom and fluidity of emotion. She also studied under Richard McDonald in his Master’s workshop. “They are all role models for what I want to be.”

Working mostly from photographs on her commissioned pieces, Laurenn believes “Art is enriching for both the

creator and the viewer. I love creating and I hope that my sculptures bring a positive energy into the world.”

These artists regularly show their artwork at the Rancho Santa Fe Art Guild Gallery. For Cherrie La Porte the Rancho Santa Fe Art Guild has been a wonderful place to meet other artists and clients close to home. “Being around other fine artists stimulates me to increase the quality of my work.” Nadine Spiers adds, “I am pleased to be associated with a group of such vibrant and professional artists who have a lot of vision and enthusiasm for their own art and for the growth of the guild as a group.” Laurenn concurs, “it is inspiring to be with people of a common spirit in art.”

View their artwork at the Rancho Santa Fe Art Guild Gallery located at: 6004 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 (858) 759-3545 www.ranchosantafeartguild.org

The member artists also display next door at the Wells Fargo Bank.

