

Kathleen Manhattan and Skip Streeter form Streets of Manhattan, a local glasswork studio producing striking, yet functional, art you can use at home.



Looking through glass

Skip Streeter and Kathleen Manhattan finish each other's sentences. They laugh easily and often — the 29-year-old artist, with tattoos peeking out below the sleeves of his T-shirt, and his friend and business partner, the 67-year-old woman who exudes all the warmth of a favorite aunt.

"Kathleen is really my mentor," Streeter says.

"And now he's beyond me," Manhattan returns.

"No..." Streeter protests.

Together, the two artists form Streets of Manhattan, a glasswork studio specializing in residential and commercial glasswork, from delicately worked wine glasses to 8-foot-long fused-glass backsplashes. Streets of Manhattan does it all: lighting, tiles, sculptures, doors.

"With glass, the possibilities are endless," Streeter says.

The pair specializes in creating fused glass — a method that integrates pieces of different-colored glass to create a multilayered work. Streets of Manhattan also crafts carved-glass, etched-glass and blown-glass objects. Their works grace the walls of non-profit organizations as well private businesses and homes. From a large architectural enhancement, like a beautiful front door, to tiny details, like glowing glass tiles around a fireplace, these artists use the flexibility of their medium to create personalized, family treasures for their customers' homes.

While many pre-made pieces are available, the artists say they relish the opportunity to create pieces in conjunction with the customer. The time-honed formulas and procedures the two have developed allow flexibility in creating pieces that their customers envision.

"People want something that is handcrafted. It's not printed 'Made in China' and mailed over here. It's unique," Streeter says.

Streets of Manhattan also creates charming smaller works, including unique Judaica art and tableware such as trays and platters. Its glass is sold in galleries and showrooms across the country, locally at Pennello Gallery in Little Italy and Finestra Gallery in Willoughby. Its multiroomed, airy studio is in the Josephat Arts Hall, below the Convivium 33 art gallery. It's filled with a rainbow's worth of glass pieces, oversize kilns that heat up to 1,500 degrees and bustling workers. The energy is welcoming, positive and light, and the relationships are as sparkling as the glass pieces that are born here. Which is just the way Manhattan says she wants it.

"As an artist, the energy that you put in a piece transfers to whoever takes it. Energy is so important," Manhattan says.

—Tori Woods

ARTISTIC OPTIONS

Every Streets of Manhattan piece is one of a kind — functional as well as beautiful. Here are two of the wide range of home decoration elements available.



1 These fused-glass floor and wall tiles are durable and thick — the floor tiles are even textured for extra tread and stability. Shown here in cool blues, greens and purples, they can be made in any color and pattern. Prices range \$10-\$30 per tile.



2 This fused-glass wall sconce is a prototype for a fixture that was 80 inches by 20 inches. Shown in warm brown from chestnut to amber, it serenely glows when illuminated. Sconces can be made in myriad of shapes and sizes, in colors that complement your décor. Prices vary.

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