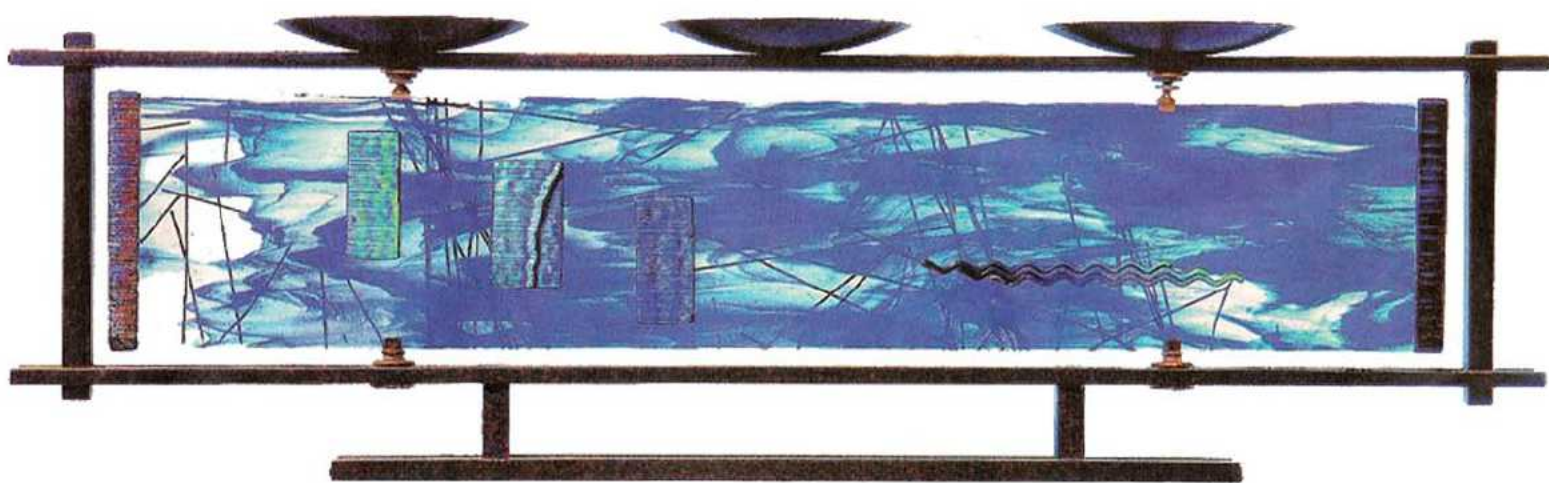


# Reflections in glass



## CHANTALE LANGLOIS SEES HER ART CLEARLY

BY NICHOLE L. REBER / PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRAIG LITTEN

**P**erched on a brown leather chair with a steaming cup of cappuccino and jazz-lounge music playing in the background, Chantale Langlois reflects on being a glass artist. In a sensuous French Canadian accent, she talks about arriving in Sarasota from Quebec eight years ago. Four years later, she opened Design in Glass, specializing in fused, cast and stained glass.

Langlois studied interior design before working at Les Artisans du Vitrail at the Économusée in Quebec City, an artisanal glass shop that specialized in custom-stained glass. There she immersed herself in developing her artistic skills with glass, gaining quick, easy confidence with the often awkward, heavy and fragile sheets. Countless epidermal burns and cuts later, she practically dreams in glass.

"I cannot do one thing; I get bored. That's why I have a lot of stuff going at one time," she says. "When I'm working on something and it's not talking to me anymore, I go on to the next. Like that piece on the wall," she says, pointing to a couple of Asian-Indian faces. "I'm not finished with it. I'm waiting for it to tell me, though I think I know what it wants."

Langlois enjoys working with found materials, especially frames, she says, pointing out one of her favorite pieces: a frame that looks like overlapping squares of brushed chrome that envelops a mirror decorated by a glass frieze of faces. A glance around the studio reveals faces everywhere. This piece holds your eye because of its indescribable color — not clear or translucent, not frosted or colored, it has only a hint of hue.

"Since the beginning, I've loved mirrors, so I always want to add some-

# StyleHome *homemade*



Sarasota glass artist Chantale Langlois specializes in fused, cast and stained glass.



thing to a mirror. I love faces ... I see faces everywhere."

Langlois has an artist's natural tendency toward perfectionism and enjoys working alongside other artists. For a commission for a Ritz Tower residence, she worked on an octagonal tray ceiling illuminated with her own stained/fused glass and a sculptor's metalwork. She fused a sun-dried-tomato red, stencil-like pattern of her own creation on each of eight iridescent glass panels that were framed and hung around the ceiling. She then curved the panels inward like a Tiffany billiards lamp, which drew attention to a helix-shaped metal sculpture done by another artist hanging from the ceiling's center. The piece functions as art both when lit and unlit, especially because of an iridescent sheen applied to the amber glass panels.

"When it's lit, you don't see the iridescence anymore, but when you don't have light, you see it, so it gives you two feelings," the artist says. When the lights are on, they seem to deepen the glass panels' amber hue.

While the sculptural helix strands reveal inspiration from Dale Chihuly, a

#### DESIGN IN GLASS

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world-renowned glass artist, the entire architectural element gives a nod to the rest of the home's Victorian and art nouveau interior design styles.

On another commission, for a Casey Key client's house, Langlois created two stacked floor-to-ceiling windows of carved diachroic glass. On the windows, she designed Asian trees within sporadic opulent leaves and natural elements that demonstrate the client's preference for meditative qualities. The windows are slender like sidelights, which complements the home's modern revival architecture.

"After talking with the client, she told me she would love to turn that corner of the house more Asian. I saw a tree in the book she showed me, and I took it from there. Some parts of the glass — the diachroic parts — are luminescent like they're (alighted) and so realistically colored that they look like real flowers extending from the windows," says Langlois. Some leaves of the trees are bright red or bright yellow in vegetal tones, and beneath the windows, lava rocks magnify the windows' colors and smooth glass texture.

Langlois' clients extend from Ohio to Rhode Island and from Martha's Vineyard to New York; items in her studio range from \$30 to \$3,000.