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CHIRICAHUAGALLERY.NET

## GRETA BURGER

FUSED & CAST GLASS / MULTI-MEDIA

Someone once mentioned to Greta while she was doodling in a meeting that she must be a frustrated artist. She had never really applied any energy to artistic endeavors until she and her husband began building furniture and took a stained-glass course to incorporate into their woodworking. One thing led to another, and the tools started filling the shop—from stained glass to woodworking to metal working to glass fusing and casting. Greta relishes the time wondering and wandering from tool to tool. Any day in the shop can find her cutting glass one minute and five minutes later donning a welding helmet and gloves to build the structure that will support the glass.

Many of her designs are inspired by her natural and cultural surroundings as she blends a variety of media, including glass, wood, metal and stone to form her pieces. The general idea for a piece forms in her mind, sometimes over weeks, and sometimes as a flash of inspiration. She allows the design to take shape as she works the elements. The two-dimensional form of fused glass naturally led to a desire to evolve her work to three-dimensional pieces and kiln casting with either open faced molds or through lost wax casting. The simple fused glass pieces are made by cutting and layering sheet glass and then embellishing with broken or powdered glass or a liquid glass and exposed to temperatures nearing 1500 degrees. Cast glass is made following the techniques of lost-wax casting or open face mold making where the design is made in another medium and then a mold formed with a plaster/silica mix. Once the mold is cleaned it is placed in the kiln and glass is placed in a reservoir above the mold to be melted into the mold over a period of hours. Working with glass can be an exacting science and always an adventure. Small imperfections may sneak in to the designs and can either be used to enhance the design, or force a “re-do.”

