



Artist's Statement

Jeanne M. Tanks

Much of my love of the visual and performing arts came about as a result of being legally blind for the first 14-years of life. Once I was able to see God's world clearly, I was imbued with a sense of awe I have never gotten over. We really do live on a beautiful planet. I try to capture that beauty and sense of God's love for us in my art.

I am an experimenter at heart. I love learning and mastering new ways of producing my art work. Consequently, over the 40-odd years that I have enjoyed sight, I have worked in many art mediums, some of which are: oil painting, watercolors, silk painting, photography, printmaking, papermaking, textiles, ceramics, stone sculpting, metal work, and hot glass, which is now my major focus of artistic endeavor. I have been privileged to study art in many areas of the world, traveling or living in nearly all of the 50-states and 17-foreign countries. I have taken art classes through Europe and USA, from many source, to include five colleges or universities, plus specialized sources of instruction such as at Corning, NY, and Penland in NC. I also have a bachelor's degree in studio art from the University of Mary Washington.

For the last 12-years, I have increasingly focused my artistic efforts on mastering the skills needed to be a warm glass artist. Warm glass is worked in a kiln at temperatures between about 1200-1700 degrees Fahrenheit. Using this source of heat, glass may be cast with a number of different techniques, fused, and/or manipulated into a slumped or draped form. It is a very demanding process that requires much study, experimentation, and practice to master. Included in this exhibit are some "painting with glass" art pieces, which represent one of the newest fields in kiln-fused glass art. Also included are some paintings of oil-based paints kiln-fused into the glass panel. Some art pieces require multiple layers of glass and/or paint, each of which must be fused before applying the next layer. A fusing cycle usually requires 24-hours (or more) to heat, fuse, anneal, and cool the glass (depending on the volume and mass of the piece). The resulting piece of artwork is permanently fused into a single piece of glass.

My attempts have been to produce 'fine art' quality in composition and execution in my warm glasswork, not the traditional approach to glass with transmitted light, but as a framed wall-hung painting. In addition to glass, some of the artwork in this exhibit are of oil & acrylic paintings, as well as a few of ancient medium of encaustic painting (pigment, wax, damar varnish crystals, and heat source), along with printmaking, photography, and ceramics.