

Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

All photos provided to the Star
 The artistic team of Twyla Butler and Tom Sourlis has created all the stained glass and hand-painted objects shown here and on page 3.



CROWN POINT
STAR



Sourlis Glass Studio — Tom Sourlis and Twyla Butler

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Recently a Highland based collaborative artistic team, Tom Sourlis and Twyla Butler, exhibited their original glass pieces at the one-of-a-kind show at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

Their works were exposed to thousands of art enthusiasts from all over the world. The art glass works included fused glass and traditional stained glass.

They presented a myriad of pieces included the following: Glass lamp shades (modern and

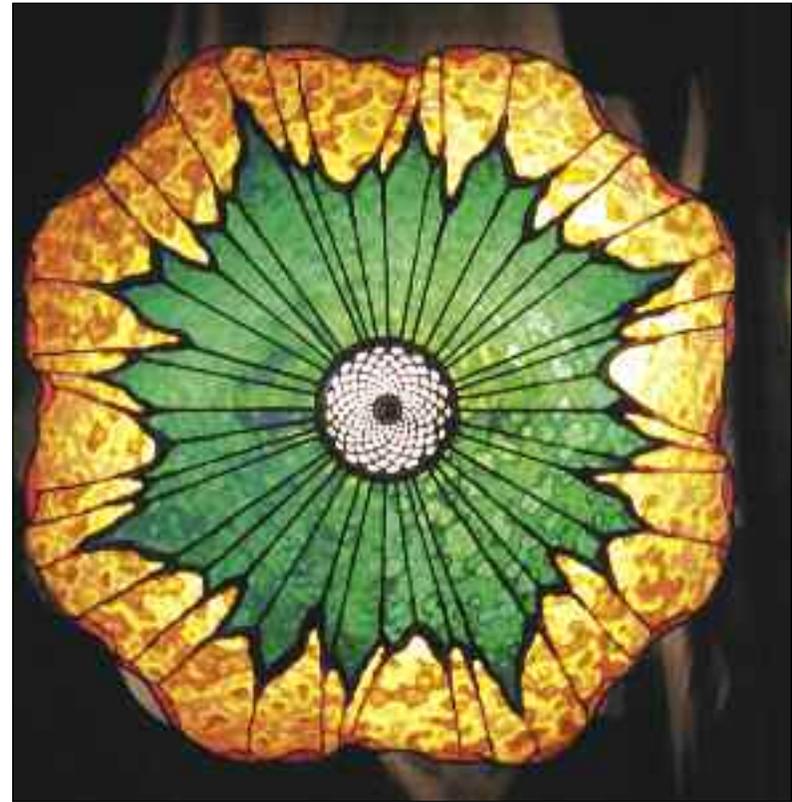
John.

Enjoy the beautiful one-of-a-kind creations by the artistic team of Sourlis Glass studio pictured in this article.

Before you take a wonderful journey and view their creations I want to share here is some information about Tom Sourlis and Twyla Buter.

Sourlis was born in Gary in 1947. He pursued a lifelong interest in arts and crafts through weaving, painting and flat glasswork. He studied architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology for four years, quitting school to go into VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America).

In 1974, he began making stained glass windows and lampshades which led to a 30-year fascination



traditional), fused candle holders, sushi trays, candleholders (several sizes), fan lights, night lights, circular discs (small to large), rectangular glass stands, ikebana flower holders, rolled glass paintings, floor lamps, table lamps, jewelry, and pendants.

Sourlis glass is presently exhibited by several area businesses in Northwest Indiana including The South Shore Arts in Munster, Lake Street Gallery in Miller, and The Steeple Gallery in St.

with glass lamps

beginning with Tiffany style and moving into more contemporary, sculptural forms. All of his work is driven by his enduring, reverential connection to nature.

Working in concert at Uroboros Glass in Portland, Oregon — with fellow glass luminary Eric Lovell — Sourlis has recently experimented with and created unique varieties of sheet glass.

He continues his experimentation and visionary search to discover new ways to produce beautiful glass objects.

Sourlis and Sue Eleuterio, a local folklorist have four children.

Sourlis' artistic partner, Butler has also spent several years creating art pieces using stained glass.

Continued on page 3 — — —

Stained glass artists

Continued from page 2



Butler has worked in glass for nearly 15 years, joining Sourlis Glass Studio in 2002.

She is experienced in the arts of copper foil, lead came, and fusing glass as well as in metalsmithing and lapidary work. A resident of Hobart, Butler formerly worked for Wonderland Stained Glass in Gary and has taught stained glass classes in Career Development Programs for several major corporations.

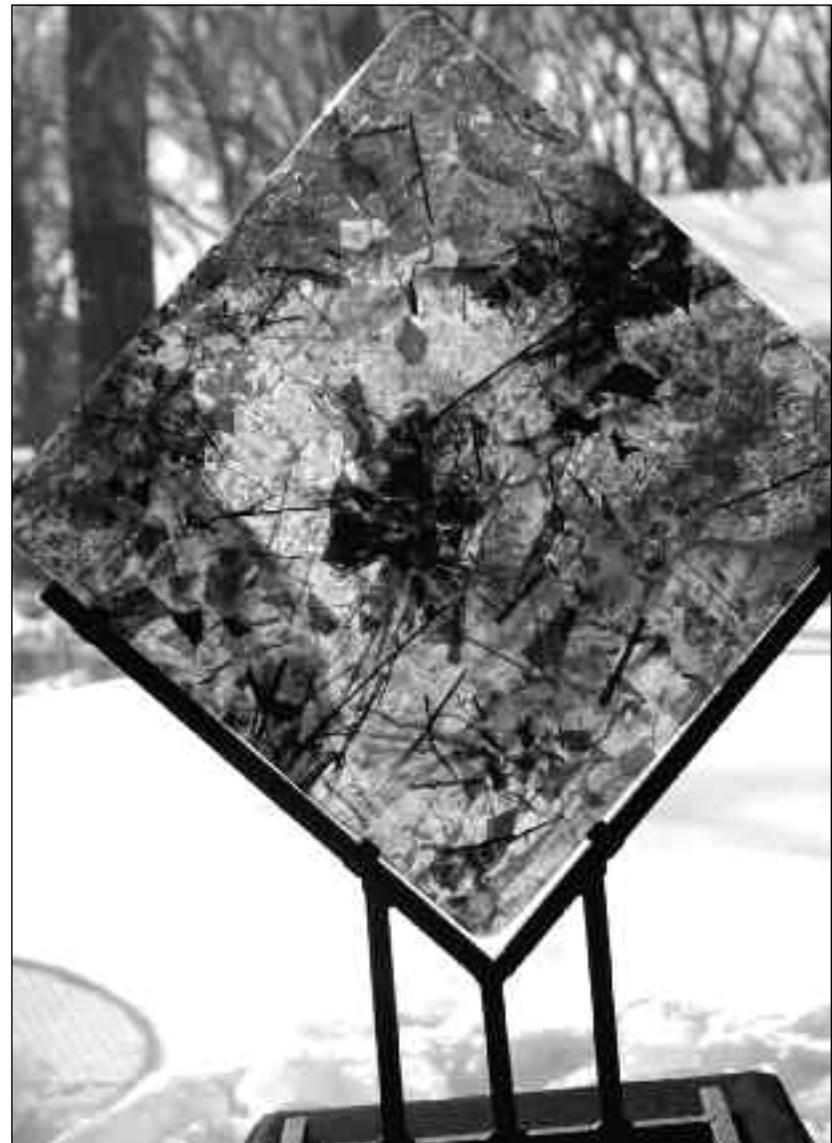
Her work includes jewelry, stained glass, and one-of-a-kind mosaics. Twyla and her husband, Tom Butler have two children.



Butler concluded our interview with the following statement, "I am thrilled (both) when I begin and finish each glass piece.

"The clarity and fragility are unique in glass. The colors, the texture, the everything about it... glass is more than my profession; it's actually my obsession."

For more information about the artists, contact The Steeple Gallery at (219) 365-1014, or e-mail samowner@sbcglobal.net.



Photos provided to the Star

Artist Twyla Butler, a resident of Hobart, is drawn to the fragile nature and clarity of glass. Creating a host of products, some of which include, light fixtures, lamps, and decorative pieces of art, Butler says she is "obsessed" with working with stained and other types of glass. Butler collaborated with Tom Sourlis for a recent show in Chicago.