

Dorothy Ansell's Bio, Artist Statement

Biography

Dorothy Ansell currently lives in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. She moved there after spending her career traveling throughout the United States. Like most of her colleagues, she brought back souvenirs from her travels. However instead of buying T-shirts she collected handcrafted items created by local artisans.

Eventually, Ms. Ansell started taking workshops to learn more about the handcrafted items that she admired. After retirement, she entered the College of the Albemarle's Professional Crafts: Jewelry Program and graduated with a diploma in 2019. Since then she has continued to learn more through participation in the Pocosin Arts Metals Guild, membership on the boards of Perquiman Arts League and Pocosin Arts School of Fine Craft.

Artist's Statement

My current work is the result of a long time fascination with glass and an emerging love affair with metal. Glass can be colorful, clear, opaque and transparent. Special coatings give it reflective qualities. When I put small pieces of glass together in the kiln I am never certain of the end result. This element of surprise makes opening the kiln feel like Christmas morning...every time. The resulting pieces of fused glass are simply fascinating.

I believe that beautiful pieces of glass deserve interesting and unique settings. Metal is the perfect choice. It can be shaped, formed, joined and textured to capture each piece of glass. Silver produces a shine and reflection equal to glass. These two materials play off of each other and are perfect companions.