

Ochoa Stained Glass

Custom Glass Art Creation

Commissions

The artisans of Ochoa Stained Glass have expertly designed, crafted and installed hundreds of stained glass, fused glass and glass mosaic artworks commissioned throughout Southern Arizona and around the country. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss how a glass artwork can enhance your property and to review the process of commissioning a custom designed piece of glass art. Our artisans work closely with you to provide:

- Residential Glass Art
- Liturgical Glass Art
- Commercial Glass Art
- Glass Art Restorations

The Process

If you're thinking about commissioning a piece of glass art there are some things you need to know about the commission process in order to fully understand how to select the best stained glass studio/gallery and artisan to create your custom artwork, and best estimate the cost. We offer the following information about our commission process for your information and consideration:

Location If you live in the Southern Arizona region (within a 100 mile radius of Tucson), we prefer to meet with our clients one-on-one. We would arrange an on-site meeting where the glass art is to ultimately be installed, whenever possible, to review the scope of the project, take accurate measurements, and consider other design elements and décor influences.

If this is impossible or the distance between us is too great for a one-on-one meeting, we can work by phone or e-mail to get the information necessary in order to accurately estimate the project and establish the design direction. When a finished piece must be shipped to clients there are significant additional costs for proper packaging and insurance to cover the replacement value of the artwork, which are passed on to the client. We have been very successful in creating and successfully delivering commissioned works for clients throughout the country including clients located in Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Colorado, California, Maine, Georgia, Minnesota, Michigan, Kansas and Missouri. Many of our best customers are affectionately known as "snowbirds", residents who spend only part of the year here with us in Tucson and have second homes in other parts of the country. They have been so happy with the work we've created for their homes here in Tucson, that they have often commissioned us to create custom glass artwork for their homes back east, in the Rockies, or in the Midwest.

Factors that Influence Cost Several factors will influence the cost of a specific piece of commission glass art including the size of the artwork, the intricacy of the design, the type of glass selected, and the finishing/installation methods required. As a result, sometimes a smaller piece will cost more than a larger one. We are happy to advise you regarding the feasibility of any project and when these cost factors may affect our ability to meet your budget considerations.

Size The first factor influencing the price of our commissioned stained glass art is the overall size of the piece. If the piece is 4 square feet or larger, we will estimate the cost for labor and materials to build the artwork on a cost per square foot basis. The cost per square foot will be determined by the intricacy of the design. The very simplest designs are going to be the least expensive to build and the most intricate designs are going to be the most expensive since they will require more labor, skill and craftsmanship to create. The simplest designs are based on designs that are primarily created from straight lines

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and simple geometric shapes. We have created many gorgeous glass artworks that have simple, yet dramatic designs.

As the design elements become more complex the cost per square foot increases. Many of the works we create are in the mid price range and include designs that have some soft curves and a few specific design details mixed with simple geometric elements such as borders.

The most intricate designs can be as much as double the price of the simpler designs or more. There is really no limit to what can be created in glass, but the more intricate the design the more demanding the skill and craftsmanship and the time and effort spent to create it which translates into a much higher cost for the client.

If the commissioned piece is smaller than 4 square feet in its overall size, then we will price the cost for labor and materials to build based on the overall number of pieces in the design. Sometimes an intricately designed piece that is no larger than a square foot can take far more time, skill and craftsmanship to create than a large transom window or entryway doors. The fewer pieces in the design the less expensive the commissioned artwork will be. The more pieces required, the more expensive the glass piece becomes.

A 50% deposit is collected in order to initiate your commissioned artwork. This covers our costs to custom design the full size pattern for the glass piece and secure the materials needed to build the artwork.

Shape The shape of the piece influences the cost because stained glass is made using metal comes—either lead, zinc, copper or brass, which must be rounded and curved for finished pieces that are circles, arched transoms, ovals or other non-rectangular shapes, requiring more labor and special equipment. Plus the glass must be shaped to follow the curves and rounded edges of the piece, requiring more time and skill—curved pieces are more difficult to cut than straight pieces.

Design Every commissioned piece of artwork we create begins with a full-size pattern, custom designed by the artisans of Ochoa Stained Glass. The pattern is created based on the specific design direction set by the client and agreed to by the Ochoa Stained Glass representative working on your project. We will ask you to consider a number of things before we settle on a design direction for your glass art. Do you want a specific representational design—something that depicts a specific object like a flower, animal, people, scenery, icon, company logo, etc.? Of do you want your design to be non-representational—a unique creation that has more of a design style such as southwestern, prairie style, mission, style, art nouveau, art deco, or something more abstract? If your glass art is going into a window or door, how much privacy do you need to achieve? How much light do you want to come through? How much color do you need in your glass art? Do you want to match any existing design theme or décor item? Therefore, there is almost always a design fee associated with the creation of a custom designed glass artwork. We generally charge a flat fee for the custom designed full-size pattern based on its size and complexity. The full design fee must be paid in advance as a part of the 50% deposit that is due in order to initiate your commissioned project. Once we have determined the design direction, estimated the overall cost for your project, reviewed these factors with you and received your approval and go ahead on the project, we will then collect the 50% deposit and create your custom design. Depending on our current production schedule, this may take approximately 10 days to 2 weeks. Once the

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design is created, we set another meeting with the client to review and approve the full-size pattern as well as samples of the glass we are recommending for the piece. At that time, minor changes and adjustments can be made to the design and we will finalize the glass selections based on the client's input. Glass artists refer to the glass art pattern as a "cartoon", because it is a mere characterization of the final artwork. And in using other mediums like chalk, markers, crayons, or any other to represent the colors and textures recommended an artist cannot completely reflect the nature of the glass. That's why we prefer to show the client actual glass samples to give them the best idea of what we envision for the finished piece.

Glass Types The type of glass selected may influence the overall cost of your commissioned glass art. There are five factors that affect the cost of a piece of glass—color, texture, method of manufacture, where it is manufactured and extra treatments. Color is achieved in glass, much like it is in paint, using metal oxides as additives to the molten liquid to turn the plain glass into colored glass. Some colors like reds, pinks, yellows and oranges are achieved using precious metals like 24k gold dust. Glass comes in translucent, wispy and opalescent colors. Translucent glass is also known as "cathedral" glass—colored glass that you can still see through. Translucent glass requires light in order to bring the true nature of the glass color to life. Opalescent glass is more densely colored, opaque and maintains its color characteristics without needing light. Wispy glass combines both the characteristics of translucent and opalescent into one piece of glass. If your commission requires the exclusive use of a color that is an expensive color those costs will have to be reflected in the price of the commission. Some glass textures are more difficult to achieve than others and can be much more difficult to work with, requiring more labor and a greater waste factor. If you choose a lot of heavily textured glass in your piece these costs will have to be reflected in the price of the commission. Glass is either made in the old-world tradition—mouth-blown and hand-rolled and sometimes made to look like antique glass, or many of today's more popular stained glass choices are machine made. Hand made glass is far more expensive than machine made glass. If your commissioned artwork requires all antique or hand made glass these costs will have to be reflected in the price of the commission. Glass is manufactured all over the world, many of the more popular choices are being manufactured right here in the United States. However, there are still many favorites produced in Europe, Asia, and South America. If the glass you choose for your commissioned artwork is all imported, this will affect the price of the commission. It simply costs us more to get it here. And finally, some glass has an iridescent coating, has been flashed or tested-compatible for kiln formed projects. Each of these processes adds an additional step to the glass making process and therefore adds costs. If your project requires glass that has been specially treated in some way, these costs may be reflected in the price of your commission.

Finishing/Installation How and where you plan to use your glass art will affect the finishing costs and the cost of installation. Do you want it permanently installed, or installed in a manner that will allow you to take it with you when you leave your current residence or place of business? Do you want the glass art custom framed? Do you want it hanging in front of a window or built-in? Are the windows fixed or do they need to open? These are just a few of several questions that can affect how we finish your glass art piece and install it and the costs associated with installation. We'll be happy to discuss your specific needs on any project to help you determine the best finishing and installation methods for your glass art.

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The Commission Contract Once we have finalized the parameters of your glass art project, come to agreement on the design direction, prepared the final estimate on your specific commission, and received your approval we will prepare the commission contract. The commission contract will clearly identify the project parameters including the overall cost estimates, methods of construction, materials to be used, methods of installation and terms of payment. Payment terms almost always require a 50% deposit in advance in order to design the full size pattern and secure the materials required for building the commission. And the remaining 50% will be due at completion. This final document, once signed by both the client and Ochoa Stained Glass fully defines the project and serves as a binding agreement and initiates the work order.

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