



Leilani Ledesma Since I was a young child, I've always loved creating art, whether it was painting elaborate imaginary landscapes to present to my parents, or doodling in the margins of my schoolbooks. I'm now a self-taught artist and have been painting glass in particular for more than 20 years. I was raised in Africa, where I drew inspiration for my creations from the vivid colors and shapes I encountered in nature. Now that I'm living in Arizona, much of my work reflects the beauty of the desert: the cacti, agave, delicate flowers and radiant sunsets that surround us. Most days you are guaranteed to find me in my art studio, balancing my cat Marie Antoinette in my lap, a mug of tea on one hand and my paintbrush in the other, and listening to a cozy mystery audiobook while painting my heart out. While glass painting is my specialty, I also dabble in a variety of mediums, including acrylic, watercolors, pencils, gouache and China ink. Few things bring me more satisfaction than learning that my work brought joy to someone else. In the words of *The Little Prince*: "Since it is beautiful, it is truly useful."

