



Artist Profile
By Karen Wilson

Felicia Borges

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Felicia Borges' glass work is several things at once. Inspired by graffiti, writing scratched on a surface, she uses found, recycled and handmade objects to manipulate glass powders to create images in what she calls kiln formed graffiti glass.

Her process is more like sand art than painting. "It's like using a shovel, or pail or a comb, in a sandbox. I'll use, for example, a leaf or a drinking straw to

manipulate the glass frit (crushed glass)," she says. Her finished work often includes

100 layers or more, with multiple firings in her kiln.

"People who see my work, their first reaction is they don't understand how I do it in glass. That's good, it means I'm doing something different," she says. "I want to capture all those

layers you see in public street art. If you were to lift the layers off and make it into glass. But what I show you as a viewer is secondary to what I'm doing as an artist. The work is slow and tedious, which is meditative. The joy I get from art is what happens when I'm sitting there creating the piece."

Borges began as an art journalist 15 years ago. "That's where I discovered my voice as an artist. The subject matter and materials I used to express that were mixed media and watercolor" she says. "Then a friend invited me to her house to work on glass, and I was making science experiments from little bits and pieces. Then I bought a kiln."

Borges says she has applied everything she'd discovered as an artist to her work in glass. "There are parallels between my work and what we do as people, the version behind closed doors vs what we show other people. But the mask is only possible because of what's going on underneath."

Borges is an active volunteer supporter of the arts and artists. She organizes shows at Just for Fun Art in Natomas, which provides wall space for Second Saturday Art Shows. "I'm working to create a collaborative of Natomas artists, and we're trying to replicate what's going on downtown in Natomas. To get a lot of spots showing art in Natomas, that's the vision."

She has started Artists of Toastmasters to help artists find their voice, and regularly donates work in support of community organizations. "I could promote my own work, or I could create a show that features 10 artists, and we can help each other promote our work," she says. "I enjoy the spirit and energy camaraderie. It's been fun to be mentored and mentor others."

(below) Borges created this series in what she calls, Kiln Formed Graffiti Glass.



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Felicia Borges
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Just for Fun Art
justforfunart.com

Sacramento City Art + Culture
arts.cityofsacramento.org