

## Jamie J. McKay

My artwork features swirling lines & melding colors to create various themes entwined with the beauty of nature. I work in a multitude of challenging artistic mediums, but mainly focus on glass, encaustics, and jewelry.

If you were to look through my portfolio you would see that most of my art deals with ancient mythology, the sacred feminine, and the beauty of nature. I also try to give as much thought to the title as to the technical execution of each piece so that my art draws the viewer in a little deeper than is typical with just a casual glance. Much of my art evokes a time in childhood when our imaginations were in high gear. I try to give playful fun and whimsy free reign as I create my glass and encaustic pieces for the various shows that I do. I hope you enjoy my art and the stories they tell!



*Dragonfly Dance*  
©2009 Jamie McKay  
Encaustics & Collage on wood panel  
12"Wx12"H



*Dancing with the Moon*  
©2007 Jamie McKay  
Frit Casting, Bullseye Glass  
8"Wx8"H

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Whether simple crayon-glazed mud pots formed in the backyards of my childhood or the more intricate clay & glass vessels created in my home studio, my art has always been centered on the need to explore & express emotion through flowing line & melding color. Leafy fronds and sensual vines, twisting roots and ancient trees, mystic spirals and earthy goddess figures – these are the rhythmic forms and mythic images that catch my eye and send my thoughts running like ripples on a pond. The swirling beauty & rich colors of Nature never fail to draw me inward – my art strives to expose that same soulfulness, to reflect its silvery moods and unspoken thoughts.

My artistic journey has certainly followed its own winding path. As a Pre-Med major in college – and much to the dismay of my advisers – I took all the clay & glass classes I could get. After graduation I did medical research in Tulsa before moving to Dallas with my husband and starting our family. In 1988 we finally made it to Seattle with its luscious green & liquid blue environs, a wonderful place to raise our children. To expand upon the clay & painting I had been doing since college, I attended various Fine Arts Centers & a community college in the area, so that in 2000 I had come full circle and found myself captivated by glass again. For the next few years, I was focused on Kiln Casting and Flameworking, which ultimately necessitated a major studio remodel in 2006 to better accommodate my teaching environ & hopefully encourage others to explore their own creative urges.

Occasionally people ask if I wish I had gotten my Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts rather than Science, but when you are good at math and science, no one tells you, “Hey, go be an Artist!” Why change the past – it creates who you are today! I have enjoyed the last 25 years of being a wife, a mom, and a “professional” volunteer & organizer – while always keeping one hand busy pursuing my own artistic passions. Akin to the Alchemist, my goal now is to bring forth the essence of all that has been bubbling deep inside the crucible of my soul these many years. The need to capture those simple yet fluid moments of truth continues to intrigue & inspire me most, because so many times in life, my soul can see it but my lips simply cannot say it.