Stained Glass - Syllabus and Information

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During this eight-week, two-hour class, students will construct one or two stained glass panels (or windows) using lead or copper foil. Those with no previous experience start with a simple project. When that is successfully completed, they may start a more advanced project.

Students who have taken a stained glass class before, and have the necessary skills, may skip the beginner project and begin with a more advanced project. Before proceeding, the design must be approved by the instructor.

An activity fee helps defray the cost of materials (metals, solder, flux, glass) and tools (cutters, lead nippers, fids, grinders, the Morton system, came saw, grozing and running pliers). Wear comfortable shoes and old clothes. Minor cuts are possible, but usually not serious. Lead is poisonous but not absorbed through the skin.

Class Objectives

- Develop an appreciation for stained glass as an art and craft
- Learn techniques for safely working with glass
- Obtain an appreciation of color and design as they pertain to stained glass.
- Learn about restoring and repairing stained glass windows and lamps
- Understand the importance of CAD software for designing stained glass projects
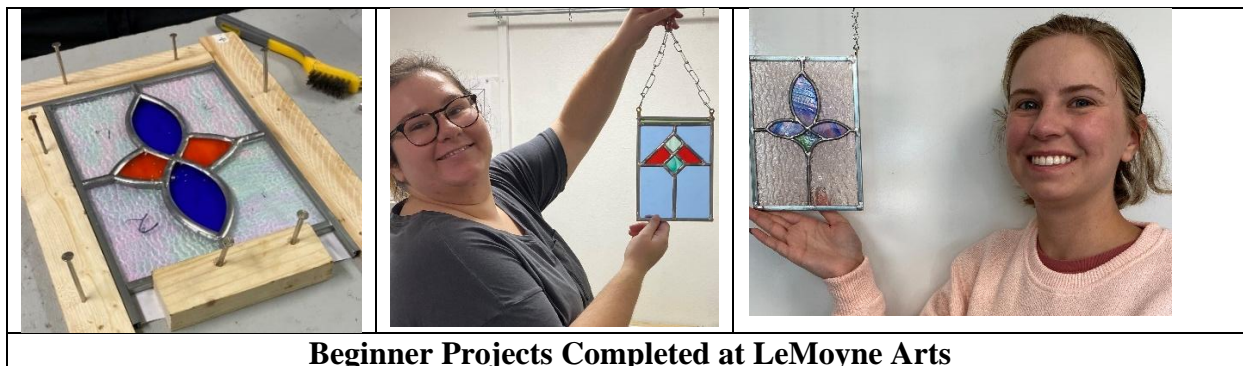
Additional Information

- Working with stained glass is rewarding and exciting; however, it is skill intensive.
- All students will take a step-by-step approach to gradually developing their skills.
- Constructing a large window (or panel) greater than 2.5 sq ft, to be installed in a residential or commercial property is beyond the scope of this class.
- All designs will be created using CAD software (Glass Eye 2000).
- A stained glass window is a two-dimensional object consisting of multiple pieces of shaped, usually colored glass, assembled in a pleasing design and held together in a matrix of H-shaped lead, copper, or zinc strips that are secured with solder.

On the First Day of Class

- Introductions, and discussion of personal goals
- Become acquainted with the glass, metals, and tools needed for this class.
- Practice safely scoring, breaking, and shaping glass, and fitting those pieces into a computer created pattern (also called a cartoon or template).
- With the assistance of the instructor, choose a pattern and begin construction.

Beginner Projects

Students can choose a simple Victorian, Prairie Style, or Art Deco design for their first project. Typically, these measure approximately 5 by 8 inches (less than 0.5 square feet) and contain fewer than ten pieces. They usually take two to three weeks to complete.
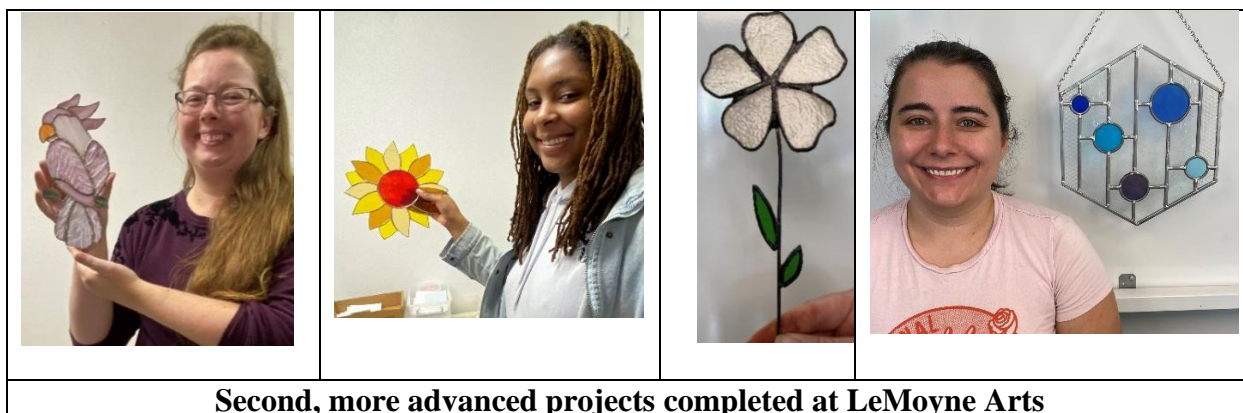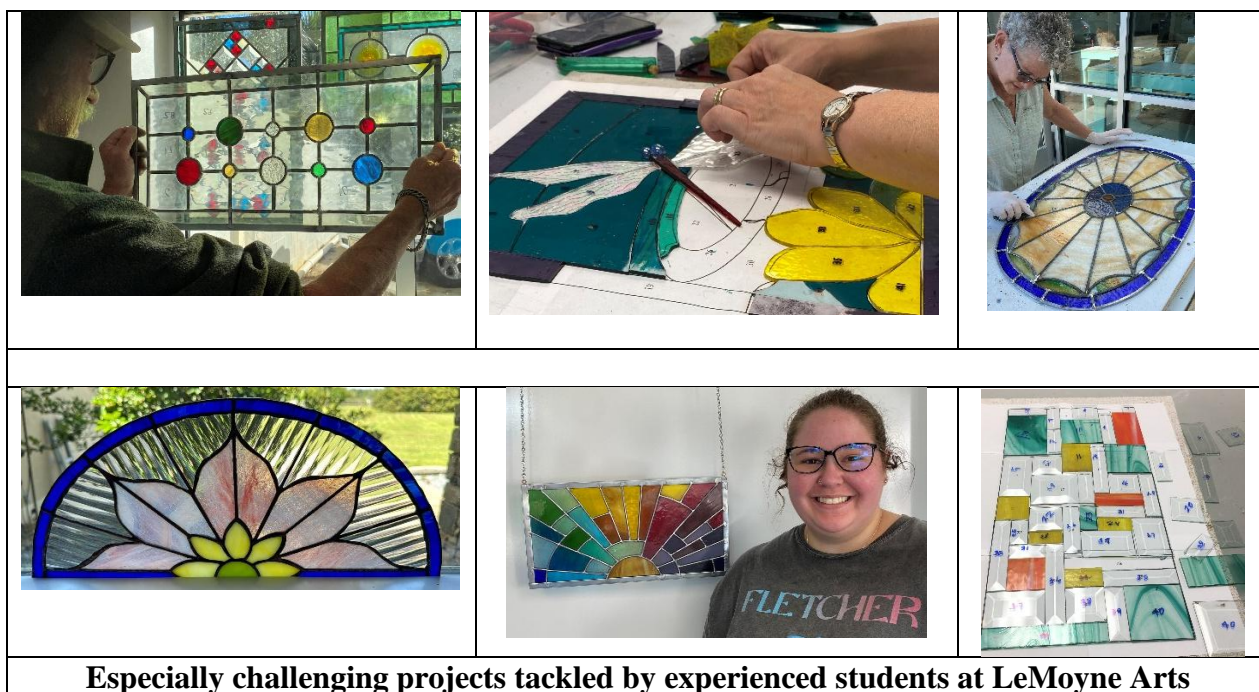

Beginner Projects Completed at LeMoyne Arts

Second Projects

Students who successfully complete a beginner project (or have taken a stained glass class before) may work with a more complex design. These will be less than 1.5 sq ft and contain fewer than 25 pieces. The instructor can provide a design, although some students find suitable designs on the WWW. All designs must be approved before starting construction.

Second, more advanced projects completed at LeMoyne Arts

Experienced students often tackle especially challenging projects. Before proceeding, the instructor will ensure that your design is within your skill level. If your project requires special glass or items not available in the studio, LeMoyne Arts may ask you to purchase those materials from an outside supplier. LeMoyne Arts does not sell glass, tools, or related materials.

Especially challenging projects tackled by experienced students at LeMoyne Arts

"An artist is a healer. First, they heal themselves and then they try, bit by bit, to heal others."

-- Wangechi Muti, Artist, Nairobi, Africa