

Catrin Jones

Stained Glass Artist

'I enjoy taking a client into more adventurous territory than they may previously have contemplated'

Art Foundation Course and Diploma in Architectural Stained Glass

Providing information and advice



Who I am: I am a contemporary stained glass artist, specialising in the design, manufacture and installation of stained glass and decorative glass for a wide range of settings. These include cultural, domestic, educational, healthcare, and religious environments.

An example of my work: Callaghan Court, is a new block of sheltered housing on a corner site in a district of Cardiff. When the project was at the drawing board stage, Moors Housing Association commissioned me to design and make a three storey-high window that would, through reference to local history, visually link the building to the shared local memories of the elderly residents. It was exactly the kind of commission that, as a life-long resident of South Wales, I like best.

How I work: Before starting to design for a new project, I discuss the requirements of the commission with the client and research any relevant information about the location. Whilst some of my architectural glass designs are purely decorative, many are descriptive in that the imagery illustrates or represents something meaningful. After discussions and research, I produce a preliminary design on paper at a smaller scale. When a design is agreed, I consider how best to realise the design in stained glass.

Getting there: I remember having brief flirtations with a number of careers like nursing and sports teaching in my last few years at school but, compared to my interest in art and design, they were never likely to sway me from applying for a local art foundation course in Swansea. From there I had some initial ideas about applying for a West Midlands course to learn the craft of glass-blowing but, as luck would have it, a one-

day-a-week foundation jewellery workshop brought me to the building that houses Swansea Metropolitan University's Architectural Stained Glass course. I liked what I saw. There was a great working atmosphere, plenty of friendly faces intent on getting things done, and no 'them and us' demarcation between staff and students. I applied and was accepted for their three-year diploma course. Leaving college can be a difficult stage for some students but I formed a co-operative venture 'Glasslight Studios' with four other friends, all ex-Swansea students, so there were plenty of familiar faces around to ease the transition from college to work.

Overall it was an invaluable training ground. It got me up to speed with all the nitty-gritty things which you really need to know in terms of running your own business such as budgets, project planning and working with other organisations. Almost ten years on I am proud of my growing reputation and my portfolio of completed commissions. I am aware of the ins and outs of designer/client relationships and feel confident in advising potential clients about the commissioning process via my website.

What are the Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) that Catrin needed to succeed in her business venture?

What foundation courses are available in your locality and how can they broaden your experiences of art and design at school?

What pathways could learners follow in order to enter this career? Learners could draw a progression pathway and consider their options.



For further information please visit www.catrinjones.co.uk

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