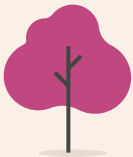


A LOS ALTOS TOWN CRIER PUBLICATION

42ND ANNUAL

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from TO Hobby Craft

Mtn. View resident turns love of glass into a business

BY NATALIE WU
TOWN CRIER EDITORIAL INTERN

By lining up glass pieces in various hues of green and soldering them together snugly like a puzzle, Mountain View resident Reshma Bhoopal is hard at work creating her next glass piece.

Her artwork consists of several glass mediums, including stained glass, mosaics and fused glass. Bhoopal has turned her hobby into a business, Arts from Glass, which is featured at this year's Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival.

However, making art for others wasn't always Bhoopal's plan. Seven years ago she started working with stained glass as a hobby for her own home she was building in India. A couple years later she moved to the U.S. and took a class in San Mateo, where she was encouraged to make a stained-glass piece of the Golden Gate Bridge.

"I was exploring the city," Bhoopal said. "To also be doing that in glass was something I loved."

From there, her hobby took off. She started taking more classes, learning from artists and practicing different techniques.

Soon enough, Bhoopal said she was "passively selling" her work to friends and acquaintances. She even invested in a fusing kiln to make more pieces, and right before the pandemic hit, she decided to give her work a brand.

"There's always a degree of art and craft," she said. "To me, this is art because there's so much creativity and techniques involved."

Thus, her Arts from Glass studio was born.

During the lockdown, Bhoopal converted a spare bedroom in her home into a studio.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESHMA BHOOPAL
Reshma Bhoopal's artwork includes "Pocket Hugs," top, and a scene of San Francisco, above.

“That was really nice,” she said. “It was from scratch, but the experience I’ve had over the years helped me set up the studio one thing at a time.”

Now, Bhoopal mainly works from home. She occasionally commutes to the studio in San Mateo to cut glass because she said she’s not comfortable cutting glass around her 10-year-old daughter.

With her daughter in elementary school with “longer after-school activities,” Bhoopal said she’s been able to take up Arts from Glass full time.

Her pieces range from cocktail stirrers to talisman-inspired fused glass hearts she calls “Pocket Hugs” and stained-glass suncatchers and even larger windows, and they can take anywhere from an hour to days to make.

“I really like working along themes,” Bhoopal said. “That’s something I really enjoy.”

Last year, she explored a mushroom and gnome theme where she made mushroom plant stakes and



COURTESY OF RESHMA BHOOPAL
Reshma Bhoopal’s stained-glass creations include colorful butterflies and hearts.

mushroom suncatchers. Remnants of the mushroom theme can be found in Bhoopal’s backyard. A little red mushroom sits with a bug on the dome, and mosaic gnomes stand next to each other guarding the tree.

In October, she made a lot of pumpkins and Halloween-inspired pieces.

Recently, she she’s been working on a plant theme – even creating trendy houseplants such as Monstera and pink princesses out of glass.

“A lot of my work is influenced by nature,” Bhoopal said. “Bugs are one of my favorite things to make, actually.” ➤



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Annie Knapp Fitz Paints

A LEGACY IN ART



SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 —
FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Anna Knapp Fitz, known as Annie, moved to Los Altos in 1921. A self-taught artist, she loved to sketch scenes from everyday life. When asked what it was like in those bygone days, Annie responded with her paintbrush. Her portraits, historic sites, and landscapes capture the spirit of early Santa Clara Valley.

Free Programs at the Museum

9/23, 7-8:30pm. Adventures in Mural Painting. Enjoy an evening of art and story presented by local muralist Morgan Bricca.

10/23, 10-11:30am. Making Time for Art. Artist Denise Howard will demonstrate how you can make time for art at any age. Doreen Cohen will share both her fabric art and colored pencil art. Held in person and on Zoom.

11/4, 7-8:30pm. Arts Los Altos: Public Art and Placemaking. Hear how Arts Los Altos is making things happen with their vision to create opportunities for Public Art within our community. Presented by co-directors Maddy McBirney and Karen Zucker.

Please check our website for event details. Registration is required: losaltoshistory.org.



Open Thur – Sun, noon to 4pm.
51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos, CA 94022
650.948.9427 losaltoshistory.org

“A LOT OF MY WORK IS INFLUENCED BY NATURE. BUGS ARE ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS TO MAKE, ACTUALLY.”
— Reshma Bhoopal

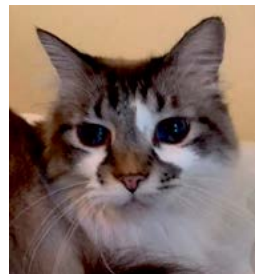
Inspired by what she sees in her garden, bees, butterflies and dragonflies all make appearances in her work. Bhoopal also likes to make functional items such as trinket dishes and bowls, often with flowers and vines engraved.

All of Bhoopal's items will be available for purchase at the festival. While she participated virtually at last year's event, this year will be her first time in person as a vendor.

“I love coming to the festivals; I love the whole vibe and meeting artists,” she said. “This time I'll be an artist displaying my work, so I'm very excited but also nervous.” ✨

For more information on Bhoopal and her work, visit artsfromglass.com.

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