

Glass Action

Harmony Mendelow
fashions functional
works of art

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EXUBERANCE BUBBLES to the surface when Harmony Mendelow speaks of her artwork, much like the ribbons of color that appear from the underside of the painter's chosen medium—glass. Mendelow says that glass offers a dynamic backdrop for the reverse paintings she applies to sinks and bowls. Looking down upon the vessels, one is struck by the convergence of colors. The hues are reminiscent of a landscape marked by gemstones and metallic ores.

For the past five years, Mendelow has been developing and perfecting her skills with reverse-glass painting, a process in which acrylic paints are applied in layers to the bottom of clear glass, producing a patterned design that shows through the transparent material. She also adds a waterproof sealant to the sinks, turning them into functional works of art.

Self-trained, Mendelow describes her hands-on technique as an opportunity to make a direct connection between herself and her creations. She enjoys the process of transferring paints from her palette to her fingertips—which she prefers over brushes—and onto glass: “I pull it (the paint) this way and dot it that way and put another layer on, and there’s just a point at which it’s done,” she notes.

The artisan, who previously worked in interior design, says that her experience in the profession influenced her desire to incorporate eye-catching pieces into



a residence. “Coming from an interior design background, I’m geared toward making the home beautiful,” she comments.

Mendelow is especially drawn to the idea of enhancing powder rooms. She points out that the versatile nature of her craft allows for the sinks to be installed in countertops or used as free-standing vessels. Mendelow says she also is inspired

by the notion of her creations reflecting a homeowner’s personality. “I want people to feel good and be who they are. So if my work can help bring any beauty or harmony to their lives, I’ve done my job,” she explains.

In addition to sinks and bowls, Mendelow paints tiles and vases and creates glass wall art. □

See Sources.