

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. DELIA ANNE WHITBREAD MA(RCA), PGCE, BA Hons., HND



I have been practicing as a stained glass maker and designer for the last 30 years working to commission in private homes and public spaces. I am a painter as well as a stained glass designer and maker. I work in a variety of media from charcoal, through gouache to oils. In 1987, after completing a Mural Design Course at Chelsea School of Art, I began to specialise in stained glass. My design for a memorial window for the Russian film director Andrei Tarkovsky, who died in 1987, was highly commended in the 1987 Annual Hetley/Hartley Wood National Stained Glass Competition. A half scale version was later displayed at the Museum of the Moving Image on the South Bank in London from 1990 - 2000. I went on to study Visual Islamic and Traditional Art at the Royal College of Art and completed an MA by Project in 1989.

As an architectural glass artist, I work in both stained, leaded and appliqué (mosaic) to commission for homes or more formal spaces. My design work draws on the geometric principles that were part of my MA studies in Islamic and Traditional Art at the Royal College of Art. In my decorative glasswork I often use a strong formal geometric element as can be seen from the glass I made for the doors and fanlights of the Amadeus Centre, Maida Vale. I enjoy making abstract work that uses line and form to create balance with movement - this involves working both with, and against, the tyranny of symmetry. However my figurative work is based the medieval figurative tradition of strong colour and distinctive stylised graphic imager. In smaller panels that are meant for more intimate spaces, I like to incorporate a humorous element as well as exploit that jewel-like quality which characterises medieval glass. I am particularly interested in translating powerful female images from different traditions (both current and archaic) into stained glass.

For 14 years I also worked part-time as a Lecturer in Art and Design in Higher Education. In my last post on the Art for Community Programme at Roehampton, University of Surrey, I taught Architectural Glass skills, such as design, cutting, painting, staining and leading as well as general design and project management to students engaged in making art works for a variety of community contexts from Schools to hospitals. I also taught a cross-curricular module for Women's Studies on art historical and theoretical issues.

In December 2009 I was awarded a doctorate for a practice-based PhD in the School of Art, Design, Media and Culture at the University of Sunderland. This was the culmination of a long-held ambition to make a rose window celebrating multi-cultural female images – an idea that began with my work in sacred geometry at the Royal College of Art in 1989. My research involved the use of the Internet to create a large scale digital artwork which would use the same sacred geometric basis of medieval rose windows, but with a modern theme, to create a contemporary 'sacred' art work. The project was also designed to introduce particular aspects of traditional stained glass design to students and artists inexperienced in the medium. The resulting rose window was made by a group of women artists each contributing a different panel and negotiating together via chatrooms on line. The finished collaborative multi-cultural digital rose window is designed to be screened full size – 45 feet diameter - as an installation and has been very favourably received.

I recently finished a new commission for St. Columba's RC Church in Croydon – a companion piece to the 'Ave Maria' window of lilies on a blue background made for the Lady Chapel in 2009. The new design is for a window opposite in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart. The design features a largely red background with the flaming heart surrounded by holly leaves and a crown of thorns. I am also working on a private commission for decorative appliqué glass door panels featuring Bee Eaters – exotic coloured birds common in Europe.

I moved to Bristol in October 2011 and have a studio in Hamilton House on Stokes Croft.

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

- 'Sacred Heart' 67cm x 152cm March 2011
Stained, etched, painted sandblasted and enamelled leaded glass.
Window for Sacred hear Chapel at St. Columba RC Church, Queenshill Road,
South Croydon.
Leading and Installation by Lead and Light.
- 'Ave Maria' 67cm x 149cm March 2009
Stained, etched, painted sandblasted and enamelled leaded glass.
Window for Lady Chapel at St. Columba RC Church, Queenshill Road,
South Croydon.
Leading and Installation by Godstone Glass, David and Sharon Knowles
- 'The Holy Family leaving Egypt' (48cm x 172cm x 4) March 2006
Stained, sandblasted, enameled and painted glass panels
St. John Vianney RC Church, 21 Heathfield Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8NP
Calligraphy designed by Liz Burch
Leading and Installation by Godstone Glass, David and Sharon Knowles
- 'Fruits of the Spirit' – Centennial windows (39cm x 109cm x 2) July 2003
Stained, etched and painted glass panels (calligraphy designed by Liz Burch)
St. Gertrude's RC Church, Purley Road, South Croydon
- 'Ganesha Ganapati – Ganesha Dancing' May 2002
Stained, etched, enameled and painted Leaded panel
H. Cooper, St. Thomas Square, Newcastle upon Tyne
- 'Arts and Crafts' Porch Window and Front Door panel January 2001
Leaded, stained and painted glass
Mrs. K. Ahmed, Woodcote Grove Road, Coulsdon
- 'Windhover' Stained, painted, enameled and leaded glass panel May 2000
(Calligraphy design: Liz Burch)
A. Finn and J. Madge, Windhover Cottage, Wood Green, Fordingbridge, UK
- Amadeus Centre Doors and Front Foyer Fanlights July 1997
Interior doors and Foyer Fanlights in Glass appliqué
The Amadeus Centre, 50 Shirland Road, LONDON W9
- 'Birds and Bees' August 1996
Leaded, stained and painted glass doors and interior windows
Mr. and Mrs. Cowie, 24 Cromer Villas Road, London SW15
- 'Provence' Entrance Hall Panels October 1994
Glass appliqué panels on toughened glass
Santa Raymond, 15 Kingsbridge Road, London W11
- Virgin and Christ Child June 1994
Stained, painted, enamelled and Leaded Glass
The Cavendish School, Arlington Road, London NW1
- A Tribute to Tarkovsky 1990 - 1998
Stained glass Panel 150cm x 150cm
Displayed at the Museum of the Moving Image, South Bank London SE1

QUALIFICATIONS

- Dec 2009 PhD by practice *Reconfiguring the Rose – translating a Visionary Medium of the Second Millennium into the Visionary Medium of the Third*
Glass and Ceramics Department, School of A,D,M & C National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland.
- June 1989 Master of Arts (R.C.A.) Visual Islamic and Traditional Art, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EU
- June 1987 H.N.D. in Mural Design, Chelsea School of Art, Manresa Road, London SW3 6LS
- June 1978 Post-Graduate Certificate of Education in English Institute of Education, University of London, Bedford Way, London WC1
- June 1973 BA Hons (2:1) in English and Sociology University of York, Heslington, YO1 5DD
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MAIN EMPLOYMENT

- Oct 06 – Jan 07 Researcher - Temporary contract
School of Computing and Technology, University of Sunderland, Sunderland
SR1 3SD
- May 06 – Sept 06 PhD Research (Full time with bursary) University of Sunderland
(address as below)
- Sept 1989 On Self-employed – Stained glass Designer/maker
- Oct 03 - Nov 04 Research PhD at the University of Sunderland (address as below)
- Sept 94 – 2003 0.5 Senior Lecturer in Architectural Glass/2nd Year Course Coordinator
Art for Public Space Programme, School of Arts, Roehampton University of
Surrey, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5JP
- Oct 01 - Sept 02 PhD Research at the University of Sunderland (sabbatical year)
Glass and Ceramics Department, School of A,D,M&C, University of
Sunderland, Ashbourne House, Ryhope Road, Sunderland SR2 7EF
- Sept 1990 – 1998 Visiting lecturer in Theoretical Studies/glass/mosaic and
Roehampton University of Surrey, Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5JP
- Sept 1978 - 1981 (ILEA) English Teaching, Acting 2nd in Department.
(ILEA) Highbury Fields School, Highbury Hill, London N5
0.5 English and Humanities Teacher Hackney Downs School, London E9
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WEBSITES

Stained glass and other art work: URL: www.deliandesigns.co.uk
