



SUN CATCHERS

THE ART OF STAINED GLASS

Young at Art Project #6

By Berit Johnston

WHAT IS STAINED GLASS?

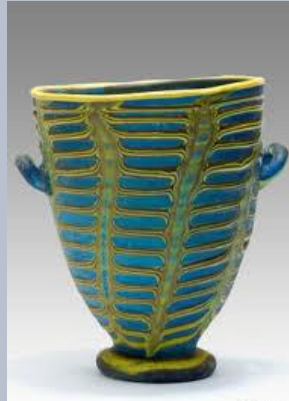


- Colored glass arranged to create patterned window designs using natural sunlight 
- Common in religious buildings (churches, mosques and temples) for design and storytelling



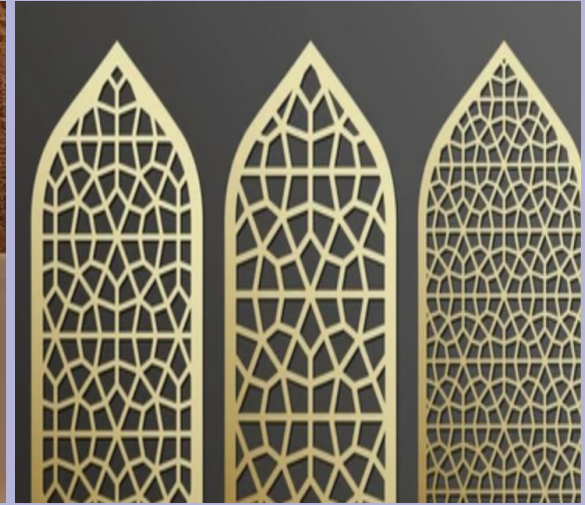
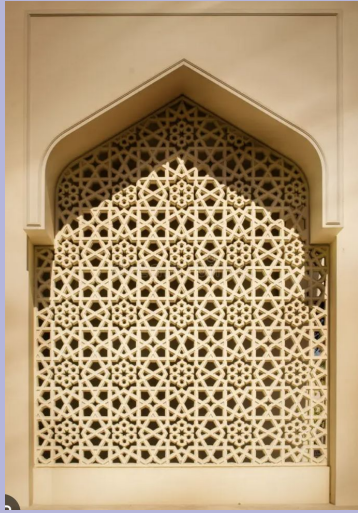
A BRIEF HISTORY OF STAINED GLASS

Stained glass originated with ancient Egyptian and Roman glassmakers 3000-4000 years ago making vases, cups and was eventually placed in small windows.



Oldest piece of stained glass discovered from 686 AD in England

ISLAMIC INFLUENCE: 900-1000 CE



- Arabian filigree, intricately carved wooden windows, moved into Europe when the Moors arrived in Spain.
- As the fashion moved farther north into colder areas, covering the open window spaces became necessary. This covering first came in the form of slices of alabaster, but later small pieces of glass were attached using lead.
- Arabian glass windows likely didn't appear until the second half of the thirteenth century.



Nasir al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, Iran also known as the “Pink Mosque”

MIDDLE AGES – 1300-1500 AD



- In churches and cathedrals of Europe, stained glass served as a teaching tool for worshippers who could not read, showing bible stories through colored light.
- The placement of stained glass windows in places of worship helped create beauty for people escaping the drudgery and darkness of daily life.
- Traveling guilds of artists were formed to create these large scale works of art.



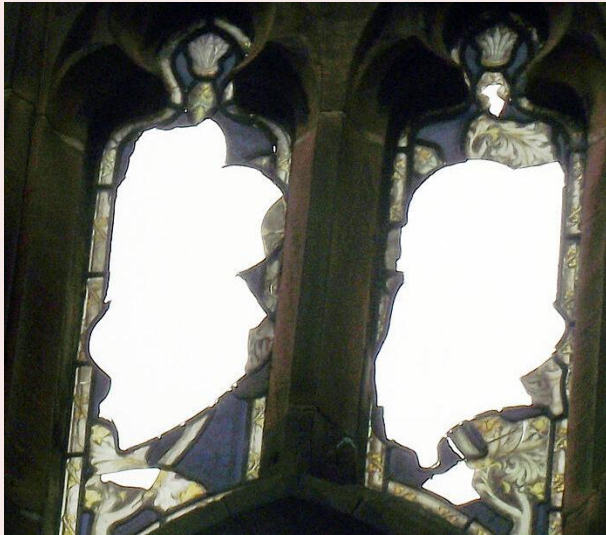
Sainte
Chappelle
Cathedral in
Paris, France

1,100 biblical
scenes are
shown in the
stained glass

STAINED GLASS LOW PERIOD AND RESURGENCE

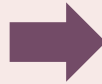
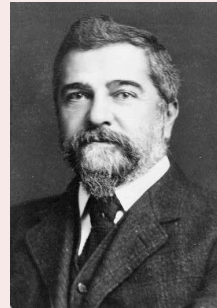
Between the 1600's-1800's, changed artistic and religious views in Europe, caused stained glass to fall out of style

Many stained glass windows were broken and destroyed, but thankfully the high cost to replace the windows stopped the destruction and preserved the history.



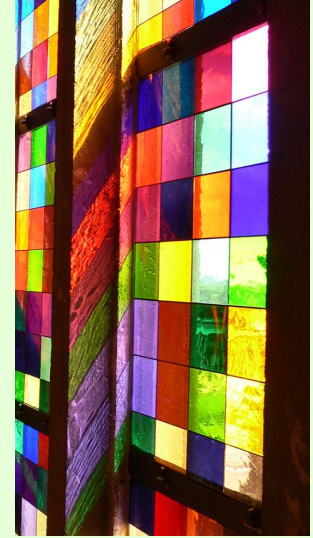
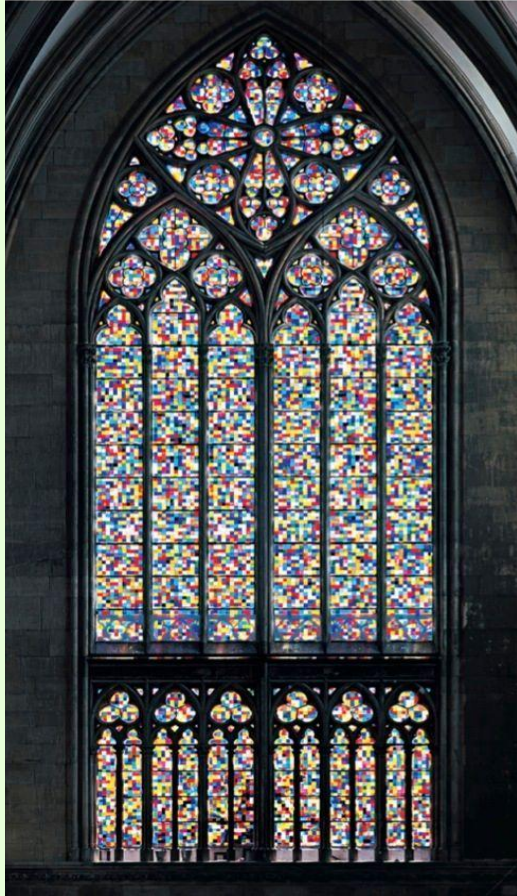
Tiffany lamp and Tiffany Dome in Chicago (largest in world)

Louis C. Tiffany



In the late 1800's there was a resurgence of stained glass in America inspired by Tiffany lamps. They are part of the **Art Nouveau** movement.

Art Connection from Project #3



Fun Fact: Gerhard Richter (*Painter Without A Brush*) was commissioned to create this abstract stained glass window in the Cologne Cathedral, Germany in 2007.

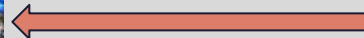
The Artist accidentally placed a template for a gothic window commission on top of one of his Color grid paintings inspiring him to fill these windows with approx 11,500 little squares in 72 colors in a pattern determined by a mathematical formula.

FINAL NOTE ON STAINED GLASS

Stained glass is a beautiful example of merging Western and Eastern cultures dating back centuries.



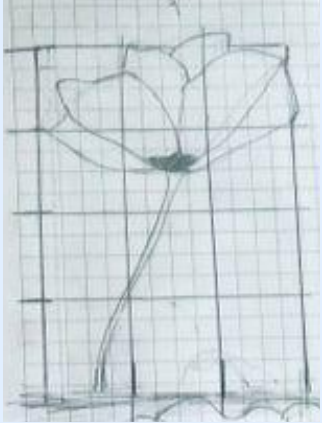
In the West; sacred light and storytelling.



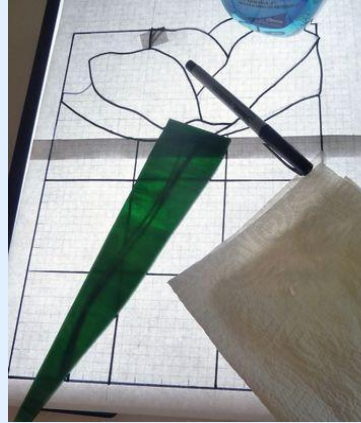
In the East: color, light, patterns, harmony and nature



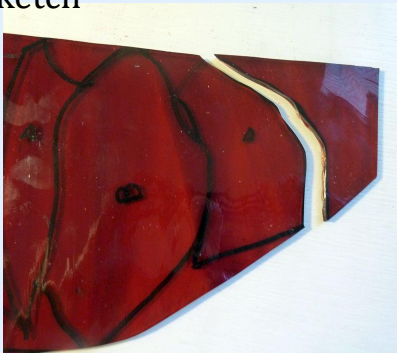
BASIC STAINED GLASS TECHNIQUE



1) Create a "cartoon" sketch



2) Cut/shape the colored glass



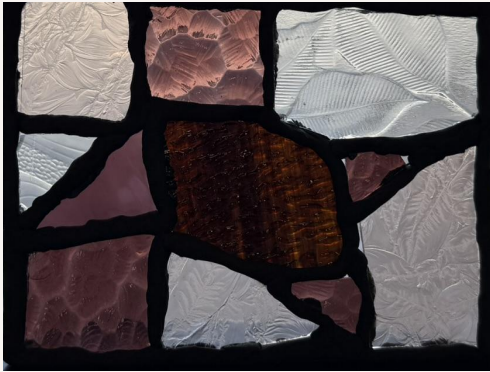
3) Grind glass for a perfect fit



4) Arrange on glass grid



5) Use lead or copper foil to solder together the glass pieces.



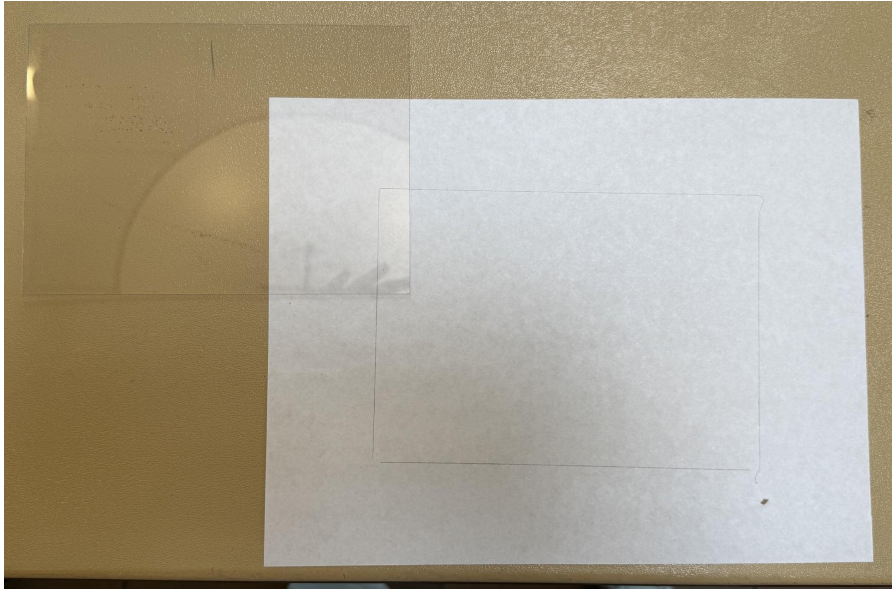
LET'S MAKE
OUR OWN
STAINED
GLASS SUN
CATCHERS!

SUPPLIES NEEDED

1. 5x7 acrylic sheet
2. Black air-dry clay (approx. size of a tangerine)
3. White paper
4. Pencil
5. Many pieces of colored glass in various shapes to choose from
6. ~20" of string
7. Gloves
8. Suction cup to take home

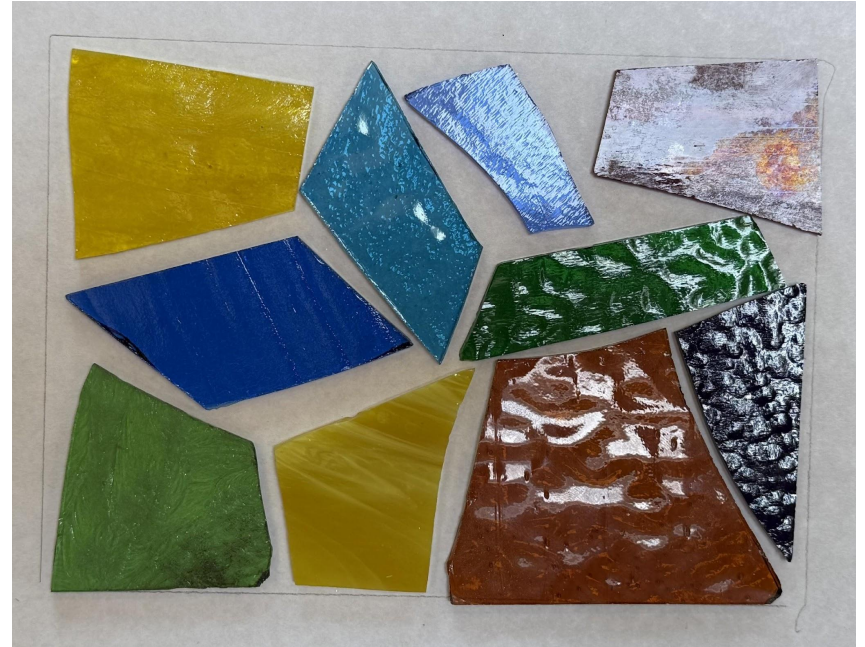


STEPS #1 AND #2



1) Trace the acrylic sheet onto the white paper using pencil

2) Find glass pieces to fill the box – leave small spaces in between each piece.



* Helpful to start in the corners

STEPS #3 AND #4

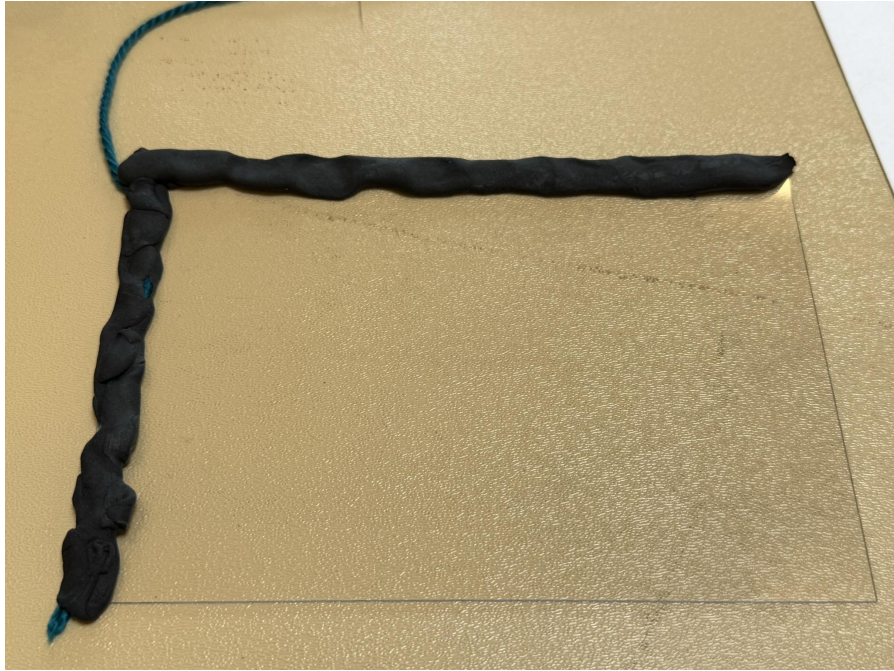


3) Pinch off a small amount of clay and roll to make a snake; should be about the length of the short end of acrylic

4) Place clay on short side of acrylic, flatten clay, lay string on top, and roll clay over to cover

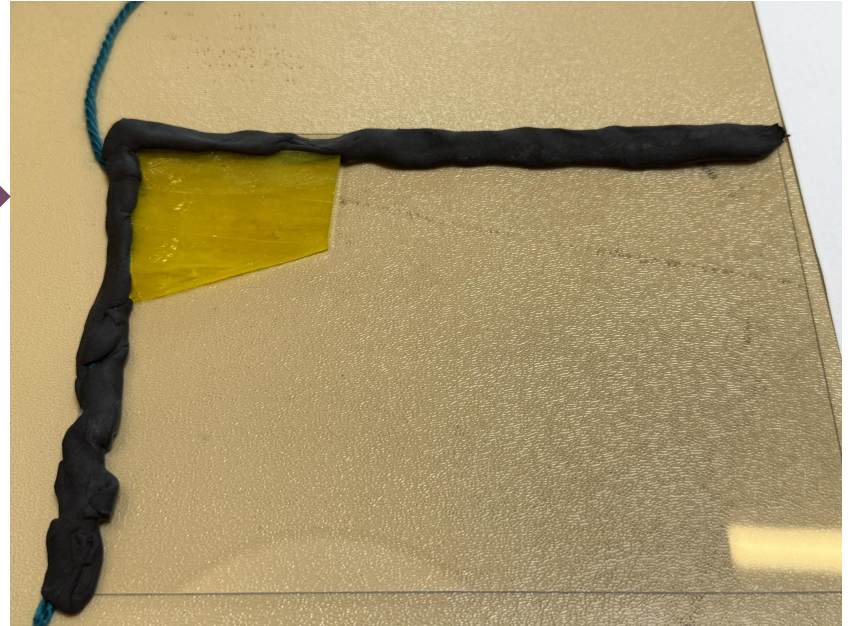


STEPS #5 AND #6

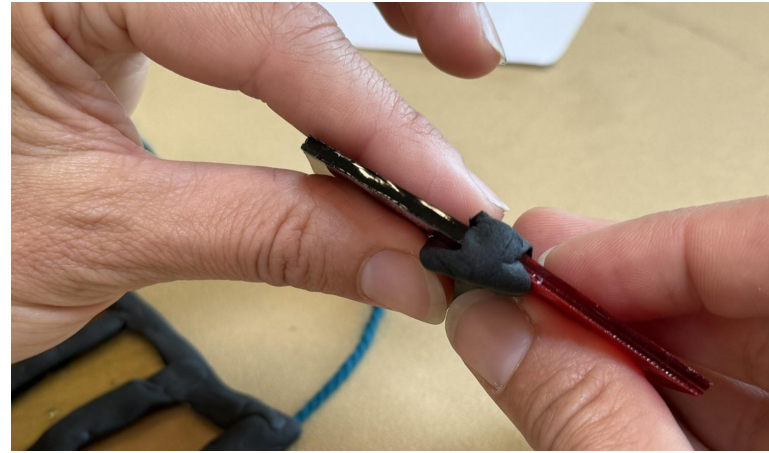


5) Place another "snake" on the top edge of the sheet

6) Beginning on the left corner, add your first glass piece by pressing into and slightly underneath the clay border.



STEP #7



Continue adding glass pieces one at a time with snake borders; moving left to right.

Be sure to press the clay into the glass to create an “H” channel.

STEP #8



Snake borders on all sides

Add a snake border to bottom edge when finished adding glass pieces

Complete the right side edge with the final snake border, add the other end of the string and cover over to secure.

* If there are any gaps, fill in with air-dry clay

Final Notes

Clay must dry for 24 hours before hanging

Enjoy your stained glass art using a small suction cup hanger

