

Home Zone: Seeing glass in a whole new light

by Maggie_Reed

It's a unique way to bring ordinary glass to life.

The art, from Randy Mardrus, combines three-dimensional deep relief sculpture in a flat glass surface - a distinct advantage over flat two-dimensional art.

ART GLASS - Carved art glass luminaires from veteran artist Randy Mardrus are making their way into some of the most opulent venues of the world, including this marine scene headboard. CNS Photo courtesy of Randy Mardrus. TICKTOCK - The Rosario wall clock is just one in the new winter line by Howard Miller. CNS Photo courtesy of Howard Miller. "I've always had an endless fascination with the way glass dances with color and light," Mardrus said. "Inspiration for my designs comes from the unlimited flowing forms in nature with depth and motion as my primary goals."

The carved art glass can be displayed in unlimited ways including doors, partitions, railing panels and framed wall hangings.

Mardrus' individually designed commissioned art typically runs around \$1,000 per square foot and is installed in many luxury homes, yachts, private aircraft and commercial environments. "Because each commissioned carved art piece is exclusive and original, clients are proud to know their artwork is unlike any other in the world," he said.

For commissioned pieces, Mardrus works closely with clients in creating and refining sketches inspired by their ideas.

He then uses his distinctive sandblasting techniques to slowly carve elaborate deep relief sculptures into thick, ultra-clear glass. Layers of glass are carefully carved away from the reverse side of the glass until the

desired depth and effect for each detail is reached.

The pieces are then brought to life with specially designed concealed lighting, usually built into the framework, which adds illumination, depth and vibrant colors to the carved glass.

"The transparency of the carved glass combined with controlled illumination is alive with depth, color and drama which is unmatched by other art forms on the market today," Mardrus said.

"I'm a perfectionist and glass carving is a medium that is very unforgiving and will always challenge me ... Depth and motion are my primary goals while creating the mood in my visual dramas ... I love the challenges and rewards of achieving the effects in glass that I'm looking for, and definitely get my biggest rewards from the overwhelming satisfaction expressed by my clients."

Mardrus began selling his unique sand carved art glass in 1987 and has been working at this venture full time since 1993.

For more information, call 800-792-3266 or visit www.randymardrus.com.

TICKTOCK

It's time to spice up the old ticker. Add some style to your walls.

"As the leader in the industry, it's our job to push the envelope to create distinctive designs. Of course, we do this without compromising on the quality and craftsmanship we are known for," said Mark Siciliano, director of marketing for Howard Miller. "With a look for all styles, our clocks can transform any house into a home."

Here's a look at the new winter gallery wall clock line:

- The Babotte features a spicy finish of chili red on select hardwoods and veneers. The dial is off-white with black Arabic numerals and spade hands. Retail price is \$375.

- The Cecilia has a vintage feel and is finished in antique white with an aged dial, Arabic numerals and black spade hands. Retail price is \$375.

- The Bowman is both striking and contemporary. Finished in an espresso color it features a decorative ebony veneer arranged in a sunburst pattern. The dial showcases brushed nickel hour markers and hands. There is also a circular pendulum located at the 6 o'clock position. Retail price is \$269.

- The Rosario is dramatic. Finished in black satin with gold highlights, it features a carved rope and leaf motif with an inner ring finished in aged gold. The wrought iron dial with center scroll design offers applied Roman numerals and open fret-cut diamond-shaped hands finished in aged gold. Retail price is \$499.

All the clocks feature quartz, battery-operated movement and are 25 inches in diameter, except the Rosario, which is 37 inches.

Based in Zeeland, Mich., Howard Miller has been crafting fine wood furnishings for more than 80 years and is family-owned.

For more information, call 616-772-7277 or visit www.howardmiller.com.

Maggie Reed can be reached by e-mail, at 619-718-5821; or P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112.

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