

The Glass Gallery

An artist finds her calling in leftover glass and giving it a new life. Meet Anjali Venkat.

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THE DESIGNER Anjali Venkat, a creative person at heart, and at work, has always been passionate about art and craft. In 1995 she started to dabble in stained glass and that opened a whole new world to her. “I am mostly a self-taught person and don’t have any formal education in art, but have attended various workshops. These workshops opened many new avenues for me.”

GLASS-IFIED “Though I initially started work with fabric, once I got introduced to glass, and the forms it takes, I fell in love with it. I find glass to be such a vibrant medium—the more I work with it, the more I realize how little I know about it. Everyday is a learning process.” Anjali works with stained glass (in the painstaking original way), melts, and transforms old bottles into decor or utilitarian items such as lampshades, platters, candleholders, glass jewellery, and decorative wall art too.

THE ROAD A very hands-on person, Anjali was always doing or making something for her home or her friends. Soon, word got around about her talent and the popularity egged her on to turn her hobby into a profession. Thus was born AnjaliDesign studio in Chennai. “No strategic marketing techniques here, just word of mouth,” she clarifies.

THE JOURNEY “The toughest part is explaining to people why my stained glass is such hard work (considering there are simpler ways too), but I love it. Every morning it makes me happy to know that I have something to do that I enjoy.”

WHAT’S UP NEXT Anjali has already started experimenting with mixed media—metal scrap, magazine waste, newspapers etc. “But not at the cost of my first love—glass and the gratification it gives me.” ■

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