

# Glass artist in La Mesa works wonders in her studio garage

**By Cynthia Robertson**  
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Connie Govier has the power to turn heads whenever she enters a room or walks down the street. She gets people stopping and pointing at the necklace or earrings she is wearing.

The jewelry dazzles, she said, picking up subtle hues and colors with every nuance of light.

"It's fused glass," explains Govier, a La Mesa resident who works from her garage studio at home. "Oh, you mean dichroic glass?" the admirer will

often ask.

Govier explains that it is fused glass or kiln work she does. "I work with fusible glass, which comes in various colors and textures and includes the dichroic glass," she said.

CLG Originals, which stands for Connie's Luminous Glass Originals, has seen a growing clientele in the United States and abroad.

"It seems like every year I discover a new use," she said.

Everything from sun catchers to night lights to

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dishes and purse hooks are in demand by her customers, as well as her ever-popular jewelry including rings, bracelets, pins and pendants.

Minimalist flower arrangers and custom-made cabinet and drawer knobs are some of her newest creations. She also enjoys creating personalized custom pieces for special occasions like births, graduations, and weddings.

One of her newest ideas is memorial art. She had lost several family members, friends and even a pet dog in the past year.

"I was looking for ways to commemorate them to ease my grieving," she said.

She ended up using her dog's ashes in a fused glass sun catcher and jewelry for herself and for her grown children.

In memory of her aunt, Govier created a fused glass plaque, which she put into a memorial garden for her aunt. She personalized with it her name and dates, and included her favorite quote by Antoine Boveau: "A luminous light remains where a beautiful soul has passed."

Since having grieved over her own family and friends' passing,



Photo by Cynthia Robertson

Connie Govier shows the subtleties of glass colors and hues with which she works.

she has been able to help other's co-create memorial keepsakes.

Still, most of the art that Govier creates is more light-hearted. She gets inspired when she visits glass distributors. "I love the fantastic colors and patterns they create or carry," she said.

Getting inspiration from oth-

er glass artists and creators of the reflective dichroic glass, Govier tries out new colors and designs.

"I always learn so much from my interactions with other people and listening to their suggestions of what they would like to see in glass," she said.

Some of her favorite projects include beautifying functional pieces. Even her dog's water dish has a decorative palm tree on top of it.

When asked what her favorite aspect about creating fused glass art, Govier said she loved the way she sees the world differently by taking its colors and

designs and incorporating them into her own work.

"I love adding to what I've seen or heard to create something of beauty," she said.

Sharing that passion to create is something she has been able to share with her customers by offering what she calls "co-creation playshops." The students have the opportunity to experience fused glass from start to finish. Letting them discover their own internal artist through the playshops is a boon for Govier.

At the same time, Govier loves watching the expressions on her customers' faces as they "adopt" a piece that she made, taking it home to call their own.

"My customers usually are people who enjoy one-of-a-kind pieces for themselves and as gifts for others," she said. "They want products produced in the United States, not mass produced for cheaper prices out of the country."

Artistic trends that affect Govier's work mostly come through her visiting art shows and artists who work in other media.

"I enjoy taking my impression of a painting and transforming it into glass art," she said.

Look for Govier's work at arts and crafts fairs and fundraisers as well as home and office parties. Govier's website for her CLG Originals is [www.clgoriginals.com](http://www.clgoriginals.com).