

Sheila Szilagyi-Noseworthy

I am a contemporary stained-glass artisan and founder of an exclusive line of heirloom quality stained glass accessories. Using rare and vintage architectural glass, I translate a traditional rigid building process into fluid, intricate and wearable fine art. Stained glass is born from architectural contours and industrial processes. I reinterpret that into humanized pieces that channel the female energy, whether they are displayed as fine art or worn as a moving exhibit.

I am fascinated by the potential of a cold, fragile and inflexible architectural medium transitioning through light and pattern into art that exudes strength, movement and femininity. Creating with glass is a delicate balance of reading color and texture and coercing a delicate fragment into something resilient and timeless. I work with glass because it is simultaneously beautiful and maddening. I have cracked and shattered endless pieces. Glass shifts with every angle, light source and hint of movement. I mix new and vintage glass with modern materials and hardware to give every piece a distinctive fingerprint of color, texture, and depth of movement.

Through my artwork I channel the energy of fierce mythological women and modern-day mentors. The Greek Goddess Medusa inspired my glass snakeskin series. Some feel her ability to turn men to stone was a curse, but others believe her abilities were bestowed to her by Athena as a powerful protection against the male gaze. Medusa's name is derived from a Greek verb meaning to "protect and guard." My work focuses on the idea of Medusa not as a threat, but as a guardian.

My Shattered Glass Ceiling Series honors trailblazing women who are reaching new milestones and personal breakthroughs. The shattered patterns also acknowledge fragility and the strength and beauty achieved when they are forged together.