

Art Uptown Gallery has a two-woman exhibit in February

Glass artist Esther Jensen's and painter Cecile Moran's work will be on display



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Art Uptown Gallery presents a dazzling two-woman exhibit in February with the colorful and contemporary work of glass artist Esther Jensen and painter Cecile Moran. Reflections in Glass and Gold runs through February 23 with a public reception on Friday, February 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is located at 1367 Main Street, Sarasota.

"This brilliant exhibit demonstrates the transfer of reflective light and color through the use of translucent and reflective forms, be it in glass or gold leaf," explains Moran. A love of the effect of light is visible in the work of both artists, as is a love of the natural environment.

Raised in New England, Moran

obviously has a special feeling about trees. Of her work in this exhibit she says, "The quiet of the woodlands is brought to life by the emerging light of dawn, through the day, until its end."

Jensen has lived all her life on or near the water and this is beautifully reflected in her pieces. A native of Denmark, she was raised near the North Sea. Now she has a year-round studio on Sarasota Bay.

Her fused glass involves the use of a kiln. "I start by cutting all the pieces of glass, then I assemble and place them on a board in the kiln," Jensen explains. "I increase the temperature slowly. When the glass becomes molten, the different pieces fuse together into a solid piece. This takes about 24 hours. Then I either slump the piece into a

mold or drape it over a form to finish the piece."


"At the heart of my glass creations is a desire for honesty, harmony, structure and a strong sense of physicality," the artist explains. "I find the physical weight of my items to be comforting and grounding."

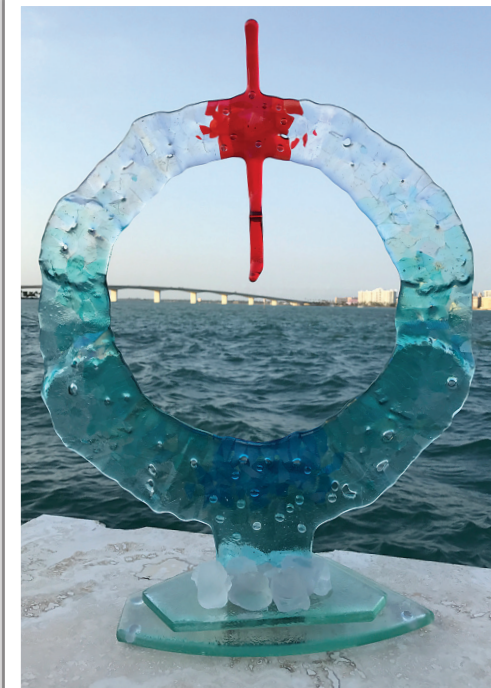
Cecile Moran is a third generation artist, calligrapher and illuminator, learning at an early age the traditional methods of applying gold leaf. After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees, in fine arts and art education, respectively, she taught high school, adult education and college classes in Spain, California, New York and Florida. She brings her impressions of all these colorful places into her current painting,

but today is especially inspired by the Florida environment.

"The infusion of the gold leaf illumination brings my work full circle," Moran comments. Her many years of using this technique has led to mastery, which is obvious in her new work.

In addition to the Reflections in Glass and Gold exhibit, the work of all Art Uptown artists will be shown at the reception and through February. For over 37 years this popular gallery has offered Sarasota a constantly changing diverse selection of fine art by up to 30 regional professional artists.

Located under the red awning on Main Street, Art Uptown is open 7 days a week. Call 941-955-5409 or visit artuptown.com for more information. 



1 Circle, by Esther Jensen of Art Uptown.

2 Glass sculpture of Esther Jensen. Pictured is Sunset.

3 Esther Jensen's glass sculpture, Gemini, was inspired by her life by the water.

4 Art Uptown's Cecile Moran uses gold leaf to create the effects of early sun on a quiet woodland, in this acrylic painting, A New Dawn.

5 This February Art Uptown presents powerful depictions of trees, including Passion Tree, by Cecile Moran.

6 Spirit Tree, an acrylic and gold leaf painting by Cecile Moran, will be presented in Reflections in Glass and Gold at Art Uptown this February.