



anna **MD** carrillo
mountain designs studio

FUSED GLASS IMAGES OF THE SOUTHWEST

Seasons. Seasons of change and those who walk with us.

These are the themes of her work over the last 14 years creating in fused glass, mosaics, and metal. A self-taught glass artist, and now, an established "Coloradan", she embraces the beauty of high mountain living.

"Aspens are always ready to share their stories of transition. They are reminders that life is filled with change and challenge. And each season brings its own amazing beauty. Mosaics, also tell a story of beauty from brokenness. They are

a visual picture that even the disarray and disappointments of our lives can come together into a new and unexpected, delightful design! "

Originating from a small rural, northern New Mexico community, Anna, shy and timid, was the youngest of 4 girls. She enjoyed being outdoors: running fast, climbing trees, rescuing injured animals, and making "art". As early as 8 yrs. old she would often have friends "pose" so she could sketch their portraits and present a magnificent pencil masterpiece - receiving whoops and hollers of support from her older sisters.

In early elementary school years she was appointed the “billboard” designer. Several teachers patronized her fledgling skills and had her create their themed classroom, corkboard signs. She spent many happy days cutting paper flowers and stapling up crepe paper borders.

Influenced by both parents’ talents; mom with her home decorating skills, and dad, whose quiet craftsmanship led him to create numerous treasures throughout the years – quietly giving them all away to admirers – she began exploring her design skills in her early teens. Arriving home from junior high school one day, she found a brand-new belt sander and scroll saw that her dad had bought after she expressed a desire to make wood puzzles. She participated in her first successful art show that summer!

After completing all the available art classes at the University of NM, she went on to a private apprenticeship with an acclaimed uncle, Bonifacio Sandoval, who was a Master Tinsmith – creating beautiful Southwestern tin art; some of his pieces found a home in the Smithsonian. Additionally, she also spent a few years creating stained glass art and selling at art shows and a local artisan gallery.

Fused glass arrived in her life at a pivotal crossroads. Having just arrived in Colorado with husband and 4 children she wanted to establish a stay-at-home hobby to contribute to the family’s financial needs. Anna found a special fascination with glass because of how it becomes a teaching metaphor of the transformation and refining that comes from a result of intense heat and pressure – something that she has experienced firsthand.



Many people call it a “bend in the road” or “an unexpected blessing”, but with the arrival of their 4th child she was ushered into the world of disability. Born with a severe epileptic condition, their daughter requires full time personal care to provide her daily needs. Anna began searching for reason and purpose in this new life altering path. Twenty-six years they have walked through all the things related to this condition: grief, broken dreams, fear, and loneliness. And the unexpected discovery has been that contrary to the darkness of disability, the refreshing truth that overrides it all is how it has influenced her understanding of the *immense value of life*.

Becoming a special needs family introduced them to the beauty of so many lives touched by disability. Sharing life with others on the same path, has become a sweet and precious experience. And while there is much reason to grow weary, there is also an abundant measure of cause for celebration and rejoicing together.

“Sorrows shared are halved, Joys shared are doubled.”
~ Swedish proverb

Perhaps her daughter's life has been the single most prominent factor in inspiring her work.

Working with mosaic glass and a kiln enables her to create fusion from the "brokenness of hardship" and watch it transform into a beautiful, purposeful design - redeeming the "discards" into something new,

"It is wonderfully cathartic and exciting to design in glass and participate as a co-creator! My home studio has become a place of safety and sanctuary"

As an artist, Anna's desire is to use her art practices to be a welcoming avenue to build relationship with others, - both with creating a piece of art that is uniquely meaningful and intimate, and by providing an encouraging venue where others can embark on their own journey of creating "beauty in the brokenness" through studio workshops.



Her glass art can be found locally:

- Mountain Arts Festival, Breckenridge, CO
- Mueller Art Show, Divide, CO
- Mountain Art Festival, Woodland Park, CO
- Maudie's Gallery, Cripple Creek, CO and her home studio, Maker's Place, Florissant, CO

She has produced over 1000 custom art pieces that can be found internationally and in private collections.

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