



THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

PHOTOGRAPHY
JASON HARTOG

THE PLACE: It all began in 1999 with a love of art and a single stained glass dragonfly. Today, artist Kara Derksen captures the essence of life in glass and shares it through her business, **Kara's Stained Glass**. Her craft has grown to include custom architectural and artistic glass often inspired by nature. Kara's work can be found in art galleries and homes across Canada, taking centre stage as a showpiece that reflects the homeowner's style and personality.

THE ARTIST: Throughout her life Kara Derksen has produced art in many mediums, but it was glass that captured her heart. Her affinity for nature is often reflected in her craft, but she also aims to incorporate her clients' personal tastes in their custom pieces. Her skills have expanded to include stunning works in fused glass.

THE STYLE: What makes stained glass so special is its uniqueness. Not only are Kara's designs custom-crafted, but her pieces use colour and texture to manipulate the light entering a space,



Kara Derksen at work



often transforming the mood of a room. Kara's clients invest in eye-catching pieces that enhance their homes by capturing a special feeling or sharing a personal story in glass.

THE FAVOURITES: Her Group of Seven-inspired tree scenes are among Kara's most popular works. Whether reflected in a four-season candleholder or custom transom windows, these celebrated designs are requested "time and time again," she says. For nature lovers, it's a way to truly capture the beauty of the outdoors through glass.

THE TREND: Nothing spoils the appeal of an oversize window more than an unattractive view. Rather than peering out at the street or the neighbour's home, Kara's clients have been lining up for custom window screens. Imagine all of the privacy without sacrificing natural light and it's no surprise that these artfully-designed inserts are growing in popularity. *By appointment only.*

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