



Newsletter for August 2010

Contents

1st Year Anniversary	1
Have Kiln Will Travel	2
Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center	2
Scott County Art Crawl	3
Open Studio Classes	3
Community Supported Art.....	3
The Handmade Tile Association	4

1st Year Anniversary

As many of you know, after nearly 30 years of working in various Information Technology roles, a year ago I left for greener pastures. Well, I'm not exactly rolling in green yet... but things are looking very positive.

If you visited my blog [Designs For Good](#) you know that one of my major themes has

been helping nonprofit organizations. I created the idea of [Have Kiln Will Travel](#) in order to hold 'fused glass events/parties' to raise funds for organizations, however it has turned into a fused glass education juggernaut.

This fall and winter I will be teaching at almost all community education programs in the metro and also at several art centers. Teaching has become a major part of my community focus, and I'm looking forward to expanding that role in the coming years.

The [Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center](#) will be opening this fall and I hope to help it become a regional arts and crafts resource for glass and metal work.

Leaving IT was a risk, but doors to new ventures cannot open and begin until you are ready to step through that threshold. I have outlined some of the adventures below, but one major component still needs to fall into place.

In keeping with my community focus, in the coming

months I will be looking for a full or part time position using my various IT and graphic arts skills in a nonprofit, charitable or community focused organization. The hours must be flexible because of the growing level of commitments I already maintain, and the compensation is not a major concern.

In the spirit of *Designs For Good* I hope to offer my considerable skill set to an organization which would normally not be able to afford it, while also being able to maintain and grow my other commitments.

If you know of a possible match, then please forward a contact person's name to me at Jim@JimBolesDesigns.com

Hope you enjoy reading about my current list of adventures below, and hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!



Have Kiln Will Travel

The glass fusing adventures continue.

This fall and winter I'll offer classes in: enameling on copper and glass; design and creation of glass jewelry; introduction to stained glass; and creation of craft items such as art glass vases, wind chimes, and sun catchers created using fused glass techniques.

Many classes are make-and-take type classes where you learn the techniques, actually watch the glass fuse in the kiln, and take home your artwork in one evening. In fact, for the jewelry class many students actually make items whose total worth is greater than the cost of the class!

There is no greater entertainment value for the creative at heart than learning to craft items of worth that you will be proud to wear, and others will treasure as your personal gifts to them.

- My full class schedule as well as registration links can be viewed at the [HKWT site](#).
- Most of the Have Kiln Will Travel dates are for single session classes. For more extensive experiences look at the [Bloomington Art Center](#)



classes and classes at the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center (see below).

- I also offer personalized classes (see Open Studio Class below).
- HKWT was originally created as a fundraising mechanism for small nonprofit and charitable organizations. I bring my traveling glass studio to locations and along with sponsoring organizations we host glass fusing parties to raising funds for the organizations. Details of how to host an event can be found [here](#).



Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center

The birth of a community focused art center.

CAFAC is a unique educational opportunity and art resource center, focusing on creative processes in glass and metal. Classes are open to the general public and will be offered in blacksmithing; sculptural welding; metal forging & casting; jewelry design and metalsmithing; introduction and advanced glass fusing classes; and a whole range of topics which involve heat and flame in the process of creation... putting the fire in Fire Arts Center.

I will be heading up the glass program at CAFAC. Opening its doors this fall, CAFAC will start with a limited number of classes in metal and glass. It is the beginning of what is planned as a regional presence for glass and metal arts. Equally important is community building, both within CAFAC as an art center for artisans and students, and in the larger context of a neighborhood revitalization project for the Chicago avenue corridor of south Minneapolis.



organized in part by the Savage Arts Council. Over fifty local artists will participate in this event including painters, sculptors, photographers, and jewelry artists to name a few. Complete information can be found at their [Facebook page](#).

I will be exhibiting a sculpture series, glass panel wall hangings, and digital art prints at my studio in Savage. Prices for purchase will range from several hundred to several thousand dollars.

All are welcome. Stop by for a studio tour, some great beer, wine, bread and cheese, and to view some award winning art work.

Open Studio Classes

Personalized glass art experiences.

During Saturdays and Sundays in August I will be hosting open studio classes. Basic and advanced classes in glass fusing are available. More than classes – these six hour experiences are customized to your specific interests. A maximum of three students per day will work directly with me on projects specific to their needs. My studio is equipped with kilns, torches, a small glory hole, and crucible kiln which enable explorations ranging from bead making and lampworking, to casting, enameling and a full range glass fusing fun.

I can suggest projects and a curriculum for the weekend or you can attend with your own ideas to explore. Your adventure is \$65 per 6 hour day (plus materials), and you can attend one or more days. Classes will run from 9 AM to 3 PM with follow up cool-down time until 9 PM complete with snacks, beverages, and good conversation.

Please contact me at Jim@JimBolesDesigns.com or call at 952-388-3762 to plan out your day of creative fun.



Scott County Art Crawl

The south metro has art too!

I am please to be included in the first art crawl for Scott County on Saturday, October 9th. This event has been



Community Supported Art

A unique approach to buying art.

With the same buy-local spirit as Community Supported Agriculture, martists.org and Springboard for the Arts are holding the second season of Community Supported ART (CSA). CSA artists are selected from a pool of applicants by a jury composed of luminaries from local food and art communities. Selected artists will create 50 'shares' for the program and receive a stipend for creating the work.

Shareholders purchase shares for \$300 and will receive 1 box containing 3 works of art at 3 different pick up dates throughout the Fall/Winter season. The pick-up evenings will be at local art sites and will be events in themselves.

If I am chosen for the program I will be contributing the images seen throughout this newsletter and others.

For more information on how you can participate and for program updates visit [Minnesota Artist.org](http://MinnesotaArtist.org).



The Handmade Tile Association

Local and regional custom tile artisans.

The Handmade Tile Association is a diverse group of independent members and volunteers, including: handmade tile and mosaic artists, tile historians, tile setters, tile showrooms and galleries, tile organizations,

material suppliers, educators, design services, and tile related fields all across the United States.

Their intent is to allow easier access to tile artists and the resources around them to better serve the public, tile setters, designers, contractors, architects, and organizations of the community and beyond.

To receive a free copy of the 2010 directory please email them at josh@handmadetileassociation.org or [visit the site](#).

I joined the tile association to bolster my commercial and home decor efforts. I've been overly focused on teaching during the past year and need to renew my efforts in creating one of a kind glass art pieces such as custom glass tile and accent pieces for kitchen, bath and hearth, custom glass bathroom basins, and architectural glass installations.

You can view a collection of my tiles [at my site](#) which server as examples of the large array of design possibilities.



Well that's enough for now. Get out there and enjoy the remaining summer months instead of reading newsletters!

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