

# studio shards

Nestled at the foot of the South Downs, artist Pauline Findlay's studio is a beautiful light-filled space, in the delightful village of Fulking. Looking at this peaceful and organised set-up it's hard to believe that until last summer Pauline was a full-time assistant head teacher - the calm of her studio is a million miles away from the hubbub of a large secondary school!

Pauline has always had a passion for art. Throughout all her years as a teacher and then assistant head-teacher, paper and pencil were never far from her hand. But after a long and successful career in education, Pauline decided that it was time to make some changes in her life. "I decided the timing was right to do something different, something that would allow me to have more time with my daughter and the opportunity to pursue a dream." That something was glass fusing.

Pauline's background in art was very much 3d ceramics, painting and drawing. However once introduced to glass fusing she hasn't looked back. "I was hooked straight away" laughs Pauline. "There was just something about the process that just clicked with me." Glass fusing is a technique to join glass pieces together by melting the glass at very high temperatures in an electric kiln. Instead of fitting glass together using a lead solder, two or more pieces are laid on top of each other and are fired at temperatures ranging from 600 - 925 degrees C.

From bespoke pieces of wall art such as recent commissions for a new hotel and penthouse apartments, to smaller decorative pieces, all Pauline's pieces have a sense of energy and vibrancy about them and nature is a strong inspiration. The medium of glass lends itself particularly well to water-inspired pieces and waves and water have a strong influence on her work: from splashes of cool water to rolling waves, Pauline takes her inspiration from the beaches of both Sussex and Cornwall. As well as the sea, she also has a range of pieces inspired by the rolling South Downs and the distinctive grasses and flowers of the Sussex Prairie Garden.

Pauline's pieces make perfect little unique gifts to mark those special occasions in life - weddings, anniversaries, the birth of a child and birthdays. And if you can't find something that's just right, she will happily work with you to create something bespoke. As well as selling her art Pauline's workshops are proving to be a great success. No experience is necessary, just some enthusiasm and a willingness to have a go!

You can view some of Pauline's work online at [www.studioshards.co.uk](http://www.studioshards.co.uk) and at the Fig Tree restaurant in Hurstpierpoint. She will also be exhibiting at the Sussex Prairie Garden during the summer and in the Gloopaah House on the Dyke Trail as part of the Brighton Festival. To commission a piece of glasswork, book a workshop or buy a gift voucher, contact Pauline on 07976 405278 or [pauline@studioshards.co.uk](mailto:pauline@studioshards.co.uk). She is also contactable on facebook and can also be followed on twitter.

