

# FUSED ENERGY: THE ART OF CHANTALE LANGLOIS

By Alizah Herman. Photos by Salvatore Brancifort.



Pineapple Avenue is a haven for many artistic jewels, from scrumptiously quaint restaurants to bead shops to clothing boutiques. One establishment, that in the privacy of its doors produces matchless designs for interiors, is run solely by Quebec native Chantale Langlois. “I was supposed to be an interior designer,” she says in her quiet cadence. “One day, I saw beautiful booths in a shopping center and asked to work there.” The shop, as it turned out, was an exquisitely beautiful stained glass store.

Sarasota lured Langlois to its downtown only 7 years ago. “I’m learning everyday,” she says, humbly. Though still a self-proclaimed student of her artistry, the work she produces is magnificent. Every piece is a colorful collaboration of fused glass, imaginative designs and possibly blended metals. Langlois makes the process seem simple. “I begin with a sheet of glass,” she says, delicately extracting a chartreuse-colored piece from its slot on the wall. She flips through her extensive sketchbook, exhibiting the process of her lengthy sitting, thinking, pondering what she or the client wants to do. “I never do the same thing,” she explains. “My ideas always change because there’s so much I want to do.”

Langlois’ morphing designs are not surprising. Her studio in the back of the store is filled with kilns, sheets of transparent, colored glass, jars of crushed glass pigments, assorted tools, plenty of metals and sketches galore. Fused glass is truly just layered glass, contracting and expanding together until blended together into a desired design. The front of her store introduces smaller, jewelry pieces and flows into the larger ones to characterize a room. “You always begin fusing glass by playing with jewelry. There’s no waste involved,” she says.

Langlois is currently involved with downtown’s new lighting store, Light Up Your Life. The elegance of lighting coupled with the translucency of glass provides a most outstanding vision, one that changes from every angle. She also provides in-home consultations for discussion of desired looks. *S*

To see more of Chantale Langlois’ work visit Fused Energy at 417 South Pineapple Avenue or [www.lights-sarasota.com](http://www.lights-sarasota.com).



Handmade Glass Works by Chantale Langlois

