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Glass artist to show handicraft at Snoqualmie Ridge this Memorial Day weekend

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SNOQUALMIE – One of the region’s innovators in stained glass art, AZWA Glassworks, will have pieces on display over this Memorial Day weekend at the Murray Franklin Snoqualmie Ridge showroom located 5 miles east of exit 25 off Interstate 90 in Snoqualmie. New works will be on display, and visitors will have an opportunity to chat with the artist between 10AM-4PM.

“The custom work we see coming from AZWA is impressive.” says Gary Lane, President of Murray Franklin Homes. “One of Paul’s strengths is in working with a client to envision a custom piece, so the homeowner can set a mood for their new home that’s tailored to their liking.”

“I’ve found that my work is a good fit for homes. The glass changes with light, so you’ll see something new coming from it constantly; it gives a room some spice and serves as a conversation piece, be it a series or something customized.” said Paul Sweum, artist of AZWA Glassworks. “Our partnership with Murray Franklin Homes combines a quality of craftsmanship in both the home and the artwork.”

All work is performed in the “Old World Style,” meaning the materials are individually selected and all work is performed by hand; no automation, decals, or gimmicks of mass-production are involved. Each glass piece is carefully selected to replicate the images seen in the mind’s eye of the artist. All glass is carefully hand-cut and sanded to precision. Meticulous soldering connects lead and copper foil pieces to ensure an authentic method of manufacturing the glass art piece from start to finish.

AZWA Glassworks was founded in 1996 in Tucson, Arizona. Developing his facility, Paul worked through increasingly complex pieces over time. In addition, his formal instruction took place in Arizona, Washington, and Italy's Umbria region.

His travels around the world brought up the idea of interpreting natural landscapes, urban settings, and cultural scenes into stained glass pieces. The name “AZWA” comes from combining the abbreviations of Arizona and the state of Washington, which echo the artist’s life experience and bookend the dramatic shifts in scenery—from desert vistas and open spaces to mountains and oceans—that tie those transitions of nature throughout the western United States together.

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