

# Alex Hirsch, Artist

Painterly art glass inspired by the natural world.



CUSTOM WORKS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMISSIONS  
[www.AlexHirschArt.com](http://www.AlexHirschArt.com)



Alex Hirsch | 503-970-7483 | ahirsch@AlexHirschArt.com | www.AlexHirschArt.com

*"The great thing about working with Alex is that she understands what we as architectural and interior designers want to accomplish!"*

—Stephen W. Domreis, AIA, LEED AP, GBD Architects



*Untitled (clinic side)*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Artist Alex Hirsch** creates fused art glass inspired by her career as a painter. Her thoughtful compositions combine unexpected color and handsome design with minimalistic imagery to evoke mood, emotion and atmosphere. The robust and light-transmitting nature of glass allows her to translate her expertise as a watercolor painter to a scale and medium appropriate for public, private and commercial settings. Suitable projects include windows, doors, walls and partitions. The glass is sourced responsibly, easily maintained and permanent. For each commissioned project, Ms. Hirsch considers the setting and audience, her current thematic interests and the desires of the client.

Trained at the University of Michigan (BA, BFA) and Washington University (MFA),

Ms. Hirsch combines an intellectual rigor with intuitive and aesthetic exploration. Her art is in many private, public and corporate collections both in the United States and internationally including the United States Embassy (Bulgaria), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (France), Hallmark Corporation (Kansas) and Oregon Health & Science University (Oregon). Ms. Hirsch has been represented by galleries in New York, Chicago, Taos and Portland; has been shown in international art fairs and juried competitions; and has been featured in catalogs, books and periodicals. Her work has been commissioned for both public and corporate spaces. Alex Hirsch maintains a studio in Portland, Oregon.

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 2009-04** Faculty Development Grant – Linfield College
- 2008** Career Opportunity Grant – Oregon Arts Commission  
Guest Artist – Derix Glass  
Guest Artist – Mayer of Munich  
Public Art Selection Committee – Regional Arts & Culture Council
- 2006-05** Artist-in-Residence – Sitka Center for Art and Ecology
- 2006** Faculty Artist-in-Residence – Oregon School of Art and Craft  
Newcomer Award – *emerge*, Bullseye Glass Company
- 2004** Artist-in-Residence – Red Cinder Creativity Center
- 2001** Artist-in-Residence – Crater Lake National Park
- 1999, 96** Fellow – Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
- 1995** Junior Artist-in-Residence – Oregon School of Art and Craft



**RIDGE TO RIVER** Health Services Inc./ODS, Bend, Oregon

*"The ODS doors are one of the best things to come out of this studio."* —Ray Ahlgren, Owner, Fireart Glass

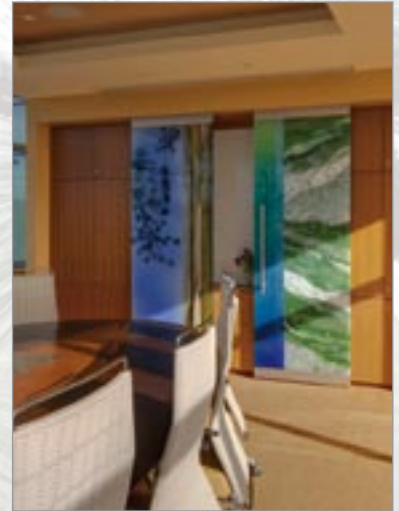
*"Alex came up with just the right design and kept us informed during the process, inviting us to see the work in progress at various stages. We were even more impressed with the finished product, a beautiful and striking piece of functional artwork. Alex is a pleasure to work with and I highly recommend her for any serious art creation."*

—David L Shaffer, CFM, Director, Facilities and Purchasing,  
The ODS Companies



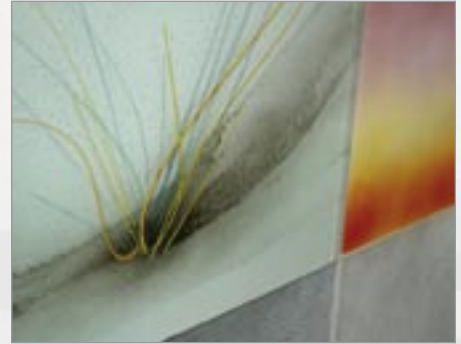
## CRAFTSMANSHIP

My client was building a flagship office in Central Oregon. They and their designers wanted a sophisticated centerpiece for the board room that would speak to both employees and the Board of Directors. After assimilating my interviews with local residents and hikes through the area, I decided to translate signature natural elements that evoke the much-loved setting. —Alex Hirsch



*“The doors are truly exquisite! There needs to be a new term created to describe the sumptuous, fluid beauty of something so practical yet so purely artistic. They beg to be touched. I find it difficult to look away. Each motif converses lightly with the other, separated only by a simple pair of modest stainless steel handles. Scrumptious.”*

—Teresa Chenney, Associate, ASLA, Mayer/Reed



**FUNCTION** I designed and created this privacy wall after all the site's other aesthetic, structural and landscaping decisions were final. My choices complement the window mullions, garden stones, mounded grasses, textiles and palette yet still command attention as a bold painting composed of glass. —Alex Hirsch

*"We used an artistic solution to solve an architectural oversight in our clinic. The design and beauty of the fused glass wall provides not only a functional solution but also an aesthetic benefit for our patients and staff. The warm and inviting depiction of nature's elements brings a tranquility to our waiting room."*

—Neil A. Swanson, M.D., Professor and OHSU Department of Dermatology Chairman





*“The translucent wall joyfully evokes the Oregon Coast, employing images of sun, sand and bubbling water. Alex makes brilliant use of the architectural elements, views and interiors. Floor-to-ceiling windows opposite her installation open to a view of sky and distant hills that mirror her creation. The effect*

*is to surround possibly anxious patients in a waiting area with an airiness and light that in some ineffable way evokes serenity and hope, and to infuse the clinic side with an inspiring glow of color and light.”*

—Steve Karakashian, Ph.D., Psychologist

**FOREST SCREEN** Health Services Inc./ODS, Bend, Oregon

*“Alex Hirsch worked closely with me and with our client while developing her artwork. She was a great team player throughout the entire process and was excited to share her developing work along the way. The art glass provides an additional sense of place to the built environment, reflecting the natural surroundings of Central Oregon.”*

—Suzy Olsen, LEED AP,  
GBD Architects



## SUSTAINABILITY

I choose suppliers, fabricators and subcontractors who have honorable employment practices and environmentally conscious practices that benefit their employees, customers, community and environment. Glass is a highly durable, low-maintenance and permanent art material. It requires a one-time investment of supplies, energy and creativity. Here, the interior designers and client needed a visual barrier between the hallway and this conference room while wanting to exploit their view of Bend and its horizons, the Three Sisters Mountains. I recommended wrapping the space in a scene evocative of the Deschutes Forest just visible ten miles in the distance. —Alex Hirsch



## COLOR & FEELING

The starting place for all my work is a feeling, mood and point of view. In making my glass pieces, drawings and paintings, I work to hone my attention and to focus viewers. I hope to slow down my viewers to see and feel what is. I try to offer an experience of release, mystery, introspection or awe. —Alex Hirsch



*"I touched my hand to my heart. Your art speaks to me there."* —Helen Appel, Buddhist Teacher and Dancer



*“Alex Hirsch’s glasswork pushes and extends the traditional range of expression for glass. She has captured the vibrancy and sensitivity of her watercolors and the luminosity of glass, and created something truly unique, exquisite and spectacular.”*

—Horatio Hung-Yan Law, Artist



## INFLUENCES

**Landscape is my muse.** Through it, I find opportunities to celebrate, focus and reflect. My subject is not limited to nature. I use landscape to explore the psyche, spirituality and point of view.

As an artist, my work is shaped by many disciplines. I am fascinated by the contrasts and range in one piece of chamber music; the minimalism of traditional Chinese painting; and space and light, elements I admired in architecture before I began my work in architectural art glass. Dance influences my sense for composition. Lush fabric prints inspire my surfaces. An exquisite poem reinforces my drive to reach for the sublime. I am moved by work that is more than the sum of its parts and offers moments of sublimity and transcendence. That is where I want my art to go.

Personal interests further inform me. These include gardening, psychology, Buddhism and travel. My work is rooted in my sensory awareness. Making art, I feel most connected with what I experience. I strive to create work that captures the eye, heart and mind of my viewers.

**all background textures:** Alex Hirsch.

## RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Assistant Professor and Instructor 1993-present

Project Manager for two renovations

Collections across the United States and internationally

Exhibitions across the United States

Published in print and online

## CONTACT

Alex Hirsch  
503-970-7483  
ahirsch@AlexHirschArt.com  
www.AlexHirschArt.com

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*From the Ferry*

## IMAGE INDEX

**cover page:** detail, *Ridge to River*.  
Photo by Alan Brandt.

**p.3:** *Untitled* (privacy screen/wall – clinic side), two-sided fused glass, 96" x 138" x .75", 2007. OHSU Center for Health & Healing, LEED Platinum. Fabricated with Bullseye Glass Co. Photo by James Zartler.

**p.5:** *Highway 101*, fused glass, 11" x 31.5" x .25", 2006. Photo by Bullseye Glass Co.

**p.6:** research samples for *Ridge to River*.

**p.6-7:** *Ridge to River* (sliding doors), fused glass & metal hardware, 98" x 68" x .75", 2008. 360 Bond, LEED Gold anticipated. Fabricated with Fireart Glass. Photos by Alan Brandt.

**p.8-9:** images of *Untitled* from clinic side (p.8) and waiting room side (p.9). Photos by Jerry Sayer and detail of grasses by Ann Ryback. Small images of the site before and after installation of the glass wall.

**p.10-11:** *Forest Screen*, etched glass, -42" x 27' on 8' x 27' curved wall. Concept and initial design by Alex Hirsch; collaborative project with Suzy Olsen, GBD Architects. Fabricated by Juno Glass LLC. Photos by Alan Brandt.

**p.12:** *Mountain Scape*, fused glass, 18 13/16" x 34 3/16" x .5", 2006. Photo by Paul Foster.

**p.12:** detail, *Untitled*.

**p.13:** detail, *Untitled*.

**p.13:** Alex at Derix Glass Studios, Taunusstein, Germany.

**p.14:** Alex in studios of Bullseye Glass Co. and Fireart Glass, Oregon.

**p.15:** *From the Ferry*, glass enamels and sandblasting, 18" x 9" x .33", 2008. Fabricated with Mayer of Munich. Photo by Courtney Frisse.

**back cover:** *Night and Day*, glass enamels, flash, sandblasting and lamination, 2008. Fabricated with Derix Glass Studios. Photo by Courtney Frisse.

**brochure design:** Lara Cuddy. *This brochure is printed on recycled paper.*

ALEX HIRSCH  
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*Night and Day*

