

Meet Renee Metropolis

Business Owner,
Fulcrum Stained Glass

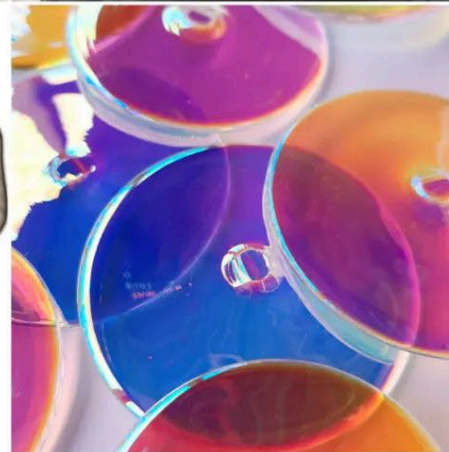




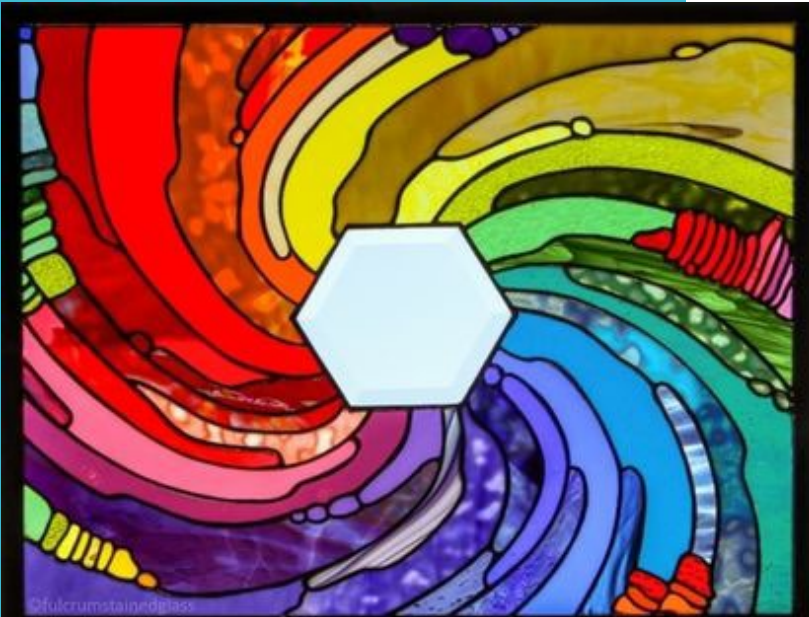
Fulcrum Stained Glass is a RI based stained glass design and fabrication studio dedicated to solid craftsmanship with an inclination to making glass more functional in today's world.



MY WORK...



About My Business...



FULCRUM
STAINED GLASS

- My medium is fabricating functional and non functional items out of stained glass sheets.
- I love the colors and lighting effects of a stained glass window but what brings me the most satisfaction is making something out of glass that can be more useful in an everyday setting, something you might not expect.
- I like to push the structural limits of glass to create these items and I work with the highest quality materials and glass from all over the world.



- I use a glass plating technique, using two sheets of glass in front of one another to create different colors, shadows or dimension.
- I also fabricate glass panels & windows.
- I create original designs with a multitude of bright, eye-catching colors to grab the attention of my audience.
- As a young girl, this is where my love for stained glass began and I've learned so much about this medium, its behavior and temperament in the 25 years I have been creating pieces.

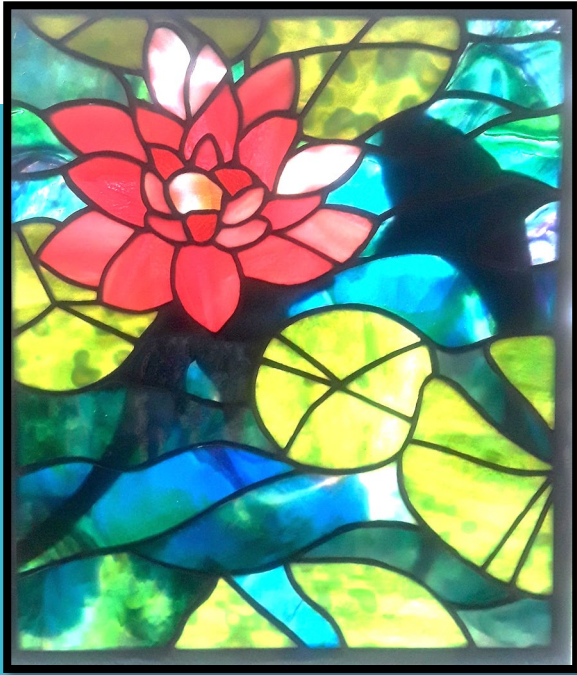


WHY I CHOSE THIS BUSINESS



- I have always been drawn to color and light.
- I love teaching as well and it gives me great joy when I see someone's face light up because they're proud to complete something they didn't know they could.
- I like to inspire people and make them realize that with the correct support, they can do anything!





- This is akin to my life, because I always wanted to own a business, but the road to get there was very hard and I doubted myself at every turn. At one point I was sick, depressed and felt absolutely hopeless.
- I grew up around people that didn't know how to support me and even brought me down. These were my darkest days.
- I grew up not believing in myself and thinking, *"Wow, it would be great to own a stained glass business, but people like me don't get to do those kinds of things."*
- This simply isn't true.
- I learned by acknowledging what was going on in my life and environment and dealing with it through the right support, I could effectively heal from those thoughts and recondition my brain from all that negative thinking that was constantly reinforced.

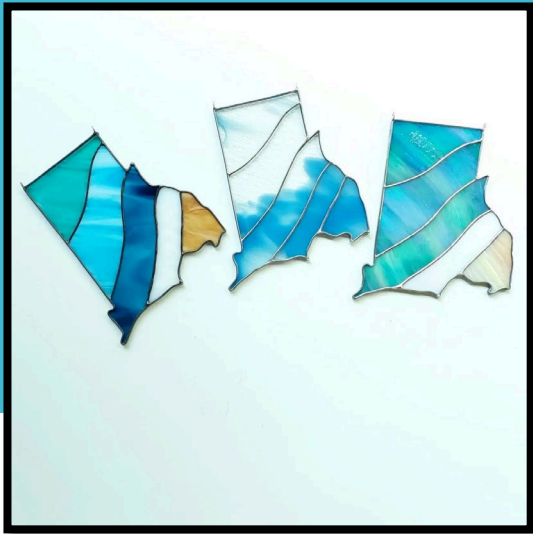


WHY IS BEING MY OWN BOSS IMPORTANT?

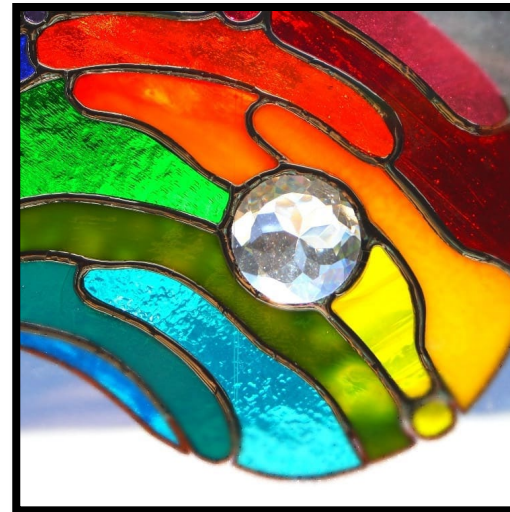


- Being My Own Boss is important to me because it lets me set my own hours.
- I am on disability and I'm not too reliable when it comes to 9-5 jobs.
- I have a chronic illness and I never know how I'm going to feel from day to day, so setting my own hours rescued me from the guilt I felt from not being reliable to others.
- Another reason I like being my own boss is because I have always worked hard and felt very underappreciated.
- Now, I can put my efforts towards something more useful in my own life, rather than giving my time and energy away for, what felt like, nothing.

Support from the RIDDC and Business Series... Self-Employment Project



- The Business Series of the RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) helped me through the different business classes... by giving me specific business knowledge in marketing and business planning and even more important, it gave me a sense of real community and support.
- I never really grew up with that around me or even knew what it really looked like.
- I was pleased to find not only people who were great resources for information on owning small businesses, but I also found the ongoing support as well, kind of like a family.
- They also helped with funding resources and had grants of their own to give, which I didn't even know about until after I had joined!
- And this year, a dream for me finally came true... I just opened up my own shop!



FUNDING & SUPPORT

Where Did I Access Funding Sources for My Business?

- My own personal earnings
- Resources from Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS)
- Grant from RI Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) Self-Employment Project
- Business expertise guidance from Self-Employment Project's Business Advisors
- Income from teaching stained glass classes and sales of various pieces
- Participating in "Small Business Saturday SHOP RI" annual event
- Business Development resources and TA from RI "Small Business Resource Hub" led by Skills for RI's Future (*new initiative to provide technical support for business development*)
- Local newspaper article from Warwick Post



MY ADVICE TO OTHERS



“I would like people to know that no matter what you think of yourself, *you can do anything*, but you have to heal that part of yourself that is telling you you can't first.”



“Don't give up on your dreams!”

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