

Art Laurenson is a mixed media artist and painter living in Jasper, Alberta. His work will be showcased at the RCA Conference as an artistic expression of reuse, repurpose and recycle. The Conference is at Jasper Park Lodge, October 22-24, 2025.

Art Laurenson Bio

I studied Architecture and Environmental Science. Worked for Parks Canada Warden Service in summers, still teach skiing in the winter, spend a lot of time in my studio and do part time architectural design. Since retiring I have pursued oil and acrylic painting and designed/built my own house. I used a variety of salvaged materials, ending up with a lot of old wood windows that I was repurposing into mirrors and bulletin boards. I began resin glass creations in 2023, using the old windows to start the resin work. It has expanded and evolved in a short time with workshops, kids art camps, several shows and sales. What next? Sometimes the shape of the window or a certain piece of glass or metal inspires the design. A washing machine door and bicycle parts became 'Spin Cycle', three fish plates painted with glitter swimming through seaweed of olive oil bottles became 'Citizens of Finland'.

I was a keen model builder as a child and then as a designer in architecture. I like designing and putting pieces together, have always liked jig saw puzzles! I like the structure of doing that. Designing is in my blood. Problem solving with recycled objects is inspiring and rewarding. I like to insert salvaged and recycled items into my work creating provocative and exciting works of art.

I have progressed from just using glass objects to using broken glass, bike and machinery parts, household items, toys, rocks, feathers, sparkly things and shiny bits, beads, glitter, sequins, seashells and rocks. I use bought, found, or collected glass and just about any other object of interest from pipe cleaners to vegetable steamers. I like to repurpose material. I like the depth, texture and reflective quality that glass and other objects bring to my work.

Last year I began exploring dark sky and outer space themed works using the same materials, this time on glass that has been painted black. The black opacity adds a new dimension to my resin/glass creations. Despite the black background,

the glass and inserted objects sparkle and shine. Combined with two or more layers of resin, adding some tinting, alcohol ink, mica powders or glitter creates depth and that deep space or dark sky look I was hoping to achieve.

The majority of works on display at the Conference are part of my 'Dark Sky Series'. To view other works please visit my website alaurensondesigns.ca or Facebook and Instagram pages.