

**Barbara Johnston**  
**Mixed media artist**



My older sister was always considered the artist in the family; I thought that meant I had to be something else! I've finally decided that I am more of an artisan. (It only took me about 30+ years to come to that conclusion). I didn't start doing anything artistic or creative until high school, and then only because I had time to fill. At first I did batik, silk screen, and wheel. Since I moved 26 times in my life, and several

of those took place during my college years, I only had one art class. So I am not trained in the traditional sense, but have always let my natural instincts lead me. The next 20+ years I managed to fit in bits of stain glass work, kaleidoscopes, knitting, quilting, auto body work, gourmet cooking, ceramics, home decorating, and landscaping.

When my only child Josh started driving, I finally had enough uninterrupted hours available to return to pottery (both wheel and hand-building). More recently I've added mosaics, silver-smithing, glass bead making, and abstract painting.

Today I combine my hand building, wheel, and mosaics to create unique furniture pieces, accent pieces (lamps, picture frames etc.) utilitarian vessels, sinks, and built- in countertops. I also like to combine my original glass beads into silver jewelry I've designed. Contemporary painting is an emerging field for me as well. But I'm always looking for new outlets for my creative urges. Different things have inspired me over the years, at present most of my inspiration comes from nature (which is hopefully evident in my work).

My work is presently on display in private and public forums throughout Germany, Florida, Georgia, S. Carolina, Texas, Colorado, California, Michigan and Wisconsin. I was recently featured at Saks Fifth Avenue, and do fundraising events whenever possible. I also have occasion to be a resident artist at local schools.