

# *Rainbow Artistry*

## *Awards Received:*

**Received “Associate of the Year” award from the Home Builders Association of Northwestern Colorado**

**Named an “Outstanding Woman of Grand Junction”**

**Designated as one of the top artists in the western slope area by the Western Colorado Center for the Arts and the Chamber of Commerce, and repeatedly honored as such in a display at the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meetings**

**Attained First Place Awards, Professional Division / Original Design in the Colorado West Juried Stained Glass Show every year since its inception in 1991. Have also received numerous awards for Second, Third, and Honorary Mentions in Original and Adapted Design**

**Attained three “Perfect” scores at “Glass at the Gardens – Best Glass in the West” juried glass show, Denver Botanical Gardens**

**Awarded “Best of Show” at the Home and Garden Show for several years**

**Nominated to and member of National Association of Women Artists, Inc.**

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## *Notable Projects from Design Concept and Creation through Installation:*

- Thirty-six approximately 2 ft. x 5 ft. windows for Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado
- Two 8 ft. x 3 ft. windows for Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, Crested Butte, Colorado
- Twenty-five 70 in. x 21 in. windows for American Lutheran Church, Grand Junction
- Two 6 ft. x 3 ft. windows for Grand Junction Hospice Heirlooms resale store
- Sixteen 4 ft. x 4 ft. windows, two 5 ft. circles, two 7 ft. x 1 ft. vestibule windows, one 8 ft. x 3 ft. triangular choir loft window, and six small baptismal niche windows for Immaculate Heart Church, Grand Junction
- Six 5 ft. x 3 ft. windows for Veterans Administration Hospital chapel, Grand Junction
- Two 12 ft. x 2 ft. Chapel windows at First Christian Church, Grand Junction
- Two 7 ft. x 3 ft. windows at St. James Episcopal Church, Meeker, Colorado
- Two 2 ft. x 2 ft. chapel windows, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Grand Junction
- One 10 ft. x 6 ft. window for First Presbyterian Church, Grand Junction
- One 5 ft. x 3 ft. window for Redlands United Methodist, Grand Junction
- One 2 ft. x 4 ft. window for Hilltop Rehabilitation Hospital's chapel, Grand Junction
- One 3 ft. x 6 ft. and two 6 ft. x 1-1/2 ft. windows for Eagle Ridge Care Center Chapel
- Four 7 ft. x 3 ft. windows for Grand Junction High School
- Tiger mascot, Grand Junction High School (46 inch diameter circle)
- Warrior mascot, Central High School, Grand Junction (36 inch diameter circle)
- Four 60" x 24" windows for Larchwood Inn Chapel, Grand Junction
- One 2-1/2 ft. x 4 ft. window for the home of Dr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Feulner, Jr., Alexandria, Virginia (this home was included in the Washington, D.C. Christmas home tour)
- One 8 ft. x 4 ft. arched window, two 8 ft. x 2 ft. sidelights and a door insert for John and Vickie Newell, Grand Junction
- Restoration of One 15 ft. x 17 ft. and eight 3 ft. x 6 ft. windows for Palisade United Methodist Church
- Restoration of One 6 ft. x 8 ft. and five 2 ft. x 6 ft. windows for Fruita Christian Church
- Hundreds of custom-designed windows for homes and businesses in and around Grand Junction
- Numerous art creations utilizing a wide variety of styles and materials
- Have shipped art glass throughout the United States and several other countries

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## *Professional and Community Associations*

**Board member / Western Slope representative, Colorado Arts Consortium (state-wide parent organization of all community arts councils)**

**Commission member and Past-Chair, Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture**

**President, Mountain Art Glass Guild**

**Member of and Board Member, Home Builders Association of Northwestern Colorado / Member, Colorado State Home Builders Association / Member, National Association of Home Builders of the United States**

**Chair, 1995 and 1997 Home and Garden Show / Co-Chair, 1996 and 1998 Home and Garden Show, 2002 and 2003 Site Coordinator, Home and Garden Show / Co-Chair, 2004, 2005 and 2006 Home, Garden and Patio Show**

**Chair, Arts Expo '98 and Arts Expo '99**

**Member, Professional Stained Glass Guild (world-wide organization)**

**Jurist, Altrusan Art Show for middle school and high school students**

**Member and volunteer, Western Colorado Center For the Arts**

**Volunteer instructor for "Super Saturday" sponsored by A.C.E.S. (Advocates for Children's Enrichment)**

**Instructor/demonstrator for May Art Week sponsored by the Western Colorado Center for the Arts – over 3,000 students involved**

**Instructor for Super Art Camp at the Art Center**

**Have served as:**

**Youth Coordinator for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4-H Leader, Cub Scout Leader, Girl Scout Assistant Leader, General Coordinator for NJCAA JUCO Tournaments and 4-H Livestock Show and Sale, Democratic Precinct Chairperson, Election Judge**

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*Creations have been installed or shipped to:*

## **In Colorado:**

**Denver, Montrose, Vail, Aspen, Basalt, Steamboat Springs, Delta, Ridgeway, Boulder, Meeker, Canon City, Pueblo, Estes Park, Alamosa, Greeley, Glenwood Springs, Aurora, Battlement Mesa, Silt, Brush, Commerce City, Lakewood, Littleton, Castle Rock, Elizabeth, Olathe, Rifle, and Arvada**

## **Elsewhere within the United States:**

**California, Texas, Idaho, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia, Connecticut, Washington, Maine, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Alaska, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Minnesota, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Alabama, North Dakota, Maryland, and Nevada**

## **Outside the United States:**

**London, England; Drumheller, Alberta, Canada; Altea, Spain; and Prestberget, Norway**

# KAREN KIEFER, STAINED GLASS ARTIST

By LAURENA MAYNE DAVIS

The Daily Sentinel

*You don't need to go to an art gallery to see stained glass artist Karen Kiefer's work. Just go to church.*

*From her home Rainbow Artistry studio, Kiefer has completed stained glass panels for several area churches and chapels.*

*Just as amazing as her work is the fact that she's done it all while watching her five grandchildren over the past 11 years. At one point, four were in diapers at the same time.*

**Who have you made windows for?**

I've done 26 for American Lutheran, 27 for Immaculate Heart ... First Presbyterian Church on 27½ Road, GJ Care Center chapel, Larchwood nursing home chapel, VA hospital, First Christian, Presbyterian Church on 27½ Road, St. James Episcopalian Church in Meeker.

**What do you try and convey in these spiritual works?**

Stained glass has always been inspirational. Way back in the 11th, 12th century, most people couldn't read, so the stories were told in glass.

**What else are you working on?**

Heirlooms for Hospice, two are in. We're going to do at least two more, maybe more. I'm also working on the ones for Redlands United Methodist. I do a lot of homes. It's all custom design.

**Are you known for any particular technique?**

I do glass fusing where you melt glass to the glass below. Like on one of the ones for American Lutheran, it's a ship on the Sea of Galilee. I created a net hanging over the side of the ship with a blowtorch.

**What are the challenges with doing commissions?**

You have to be able to work with all these different people. One of the most fun ones was the one in Meeker. There was a group of ladies, and I think the youngest one was in her 80s and they all had definite ideas. They decided on a pioneer woman with a little girl sitting at her feet. It's kind of dedicated to the women who founded the church. One woman wanted the pioneer woman in red because that was her favorite color, but the others weren't too crazy about having a woman in red at church. I ended up doing the knitting the pioneer woman was working on in red.

**What do your grandchildren think of your work?**

My grandchildren are very proud of it. When they go into a church that I did, they say "My grandma did that." They all love to draw and I think that's because we draw so much here.

*Kiefer, 56, and her husband Dennis Kiefer, a retired Grand Junction High School English teacher, live in Grand Junction. She also did two 8-by-3-foot windows for the high school.*

*Her motto is "Stained glass brings rainbows inside." Call her studio, 243-8908, for information about commissions.*



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