



# Painted glass is artistic outlet for Sterling resident

## Open house will showcase local artwork

by Danielle Ray

Painting glass has become a way of life for Toronto native Lex Thomas, who applies her artistic hand to items such as windows and panels, martini glass sets, espresso cups, and ceramic serving pieces. She says she can't remember exactly how she got into painting glass, but that her studies of stained glass probably had something to do with the creative path she has chosen.

"Perhaps this is just a way of coalescing that with some new inspiration," Lex said of her chosen artistic genre. "I love the characteristics that glass has as a medium, more so than a blank canvas."

Lex's home in Sterling, where she lives with her husband, son, and four cats, is also her studio, which she says is "total chaos" because they turned their home into exactly that – a working studio for Lex.

Creative inspiration comes from "the workings of my mind, combined with constant learning and observation," Lex says. "I was raised in an environment that valued beauty, and I seem to have carried the desire to create beauty throughout my life."

The creative process varies depending on the type and size of glass she is working with. Lex says she comes up with design ideas based on something she admires or feels moved to create. "Everything has a form and movement, and I try to adapt my designs to those," she explained. "Sometimes a design idea comes to me quickly, other times I have a piece for quite some time before the perfect design occurs to me."

Prices range from \$20 for a suncatcher to several hundred dollars for a custom designed window. Glassware and service pieces range from \$25 to \$100, and she also paints pet portraits of dogs, horses, cats, and more.

This year alone, Lex participated in nearly 20 art shows and craft fairs throughout New England. She said her work has been "well received, which is extremely gratifying."

Regarding her motivation, Lex said, "What I enjoy most about my work is trying to push beyond what I think is my best work, and creating something that I didn't think was possible a year ago."

### **Sterling Open Studio offers Lex's work and more**

On Saturday, November 19, and Sunday, November 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, Lex will host the second Sterling Open Studio at 109B Kendall Hill Rd. in Sterling. She will be joined by other artists including watercolorist MaryAnn Piantedosi, photographer



PHOTO by Danielle Ray

*Lex Thomas displays one of her plates.*

Doug Hockman, and traditional decorative painter Christopher Meagher.

A percentage of all sales will be donated to UMass Memorial's Cancer Center of Excellence Comprehensive Breast Center in Worcester.

*For more information about Lex Thomas's work and upcoming events, or to view, purchase, or order custom designed painted glass items, visit [www.lexieglass.com](http://www.lexieglass.com) or call 978-870-5757.*