

>>> **Barbara and Larry Domsy, DomsyGlass
Las Vegas, Nevada**



JUST WHAT EVERY SOPHISTICATED Southern California designer wants to hear from a client: *I saw this fabulous artwork in a Las Vegas casino—can you work it in?*

Renowned Woodland Hills interior designer Aileen Munoz had never heard of the artisans responsible for the glass-and-metal sculpture that her client had fallen for at the Mandalay Bay casino. Yet the 25-year professional didn't cringe. She completely trusted her client, a successful businessman and glass-art collector with taste. "He has a good eye," Munoz says. "He knows what he likes and doesn't mess around."

Now, after Munoz's complete interior remodeling job, the client's home in Palos Verdes, California is a model of contemporary sophistication—so much so that it was made part of the affluent community's annual home tour in April. The designer can't give enough to credit to the three pieces by Las Vegas artisans Barbara and Larry Domsy: "They're awesome."

Above right: Glass artists Larry and Barbara Domsy. Right: Using a process called "hot fusion," the couple creates expressive, cutting-edge glass pieces with vivid colors and patterns.



Munoz points to the triptych that shimmers against the clean palette of the minimalistic living room. On a green-slate wall in the open, high-ceilinged room, amid clear maple floors and an off-white leather couch, "Tranquility" ignites the room with cobalt blue and aquamarines, plus elements of pale yellow and deep red, and iridescent flecks of dichroic glass—all of which are melted into a vibrant image that echoes the ocean just outside.

"It has a very commanding quality to it," Munoz says. "The piece really comes alive in that room. It's like it has movement."

"Tranquility" (102" x 42" x 1") is one of the "hot-fusion" works that's generating a Domsy buzz among designers, architects and collectors in the West, as well as some overseas. The process blends two old glass-working techniques, starting with Larry using a furnace to melt large crucibles of glass into lengths of cane. After cooling, the cane gets sliced into cross-sections, and Barbara incorporates them—and a variety of other materials—onto a pre-fired mold. Then it all gets melted again into one piece.

The hot-fusion results range from large-scale paintings (like that in the California living room) to freestanding sculptures, which are sold at high-end boutiques (such as those in Mandalay Bay and Wynn Las Vegas) but also found in some high-end residences. Las Vegas architect Jason Jones of Jones-Greenwold commissioned several pieces for a showcase penthouse in the new Panorama Towers (Ryan Seacrest and Pam Anderson attended the opening), and owner Lawrence Hallier has become a fan, so he will keep some pieces for his private collection.

"They're extremely expressive pieces," the architect says. "Just the way they capture light...it puts them on the cutting edge. Larry and Barbara are definitely pushing new ground."

Jones even mentions that some people have compared the Domsy's work to Dale Chihuly's, but Barbara is quick to set the record straight. "He is a master. He's been doing it for 40 years. We are very dedicated to the *mastery* of glass art, though. And hopefully when we reach his age..."

So far couple has been creating glass art together for 16 years, all in Las Vegas, where the Philadelphia-born Larry met the bohemian-bred artist Barbara, who as a child lived in Los Angeles, South America and South Africa. They not only hit it off as a couple, but also as collaborative artists. The Domsy's are both self-taught glass artists. Barbara was into ceramics and acrylics before "discover-



ing the art of forming and melting glass.” Larry, who was first a metal artist and worked on stage sets, got into glass via Barbara. Together they’ve evolved their art by experimenting with different media and styles over the years.

“Somehow it all balances out really well,” Barbara says. “We’ll meet with a client, see the blueprint, absorb it all and then go back home and discuss ideas. And every time we work on a project, we always seem to know who’s going to do what. We’re pretty intertwined.”

“It helps that we don’t have swollen egos,” Larry adds.

Munoz speculates that yin-yang has something to do with it. “They have such different personalities, but they’re a good mix and they have this shared vision,” she says.

Generally, this double vision focuses on DomskyGlass being as unique as possible. They do quite a bit of checking around to make sure. One place they don’t have to look is Vegas, which actually helps their cause.

“It’s like being in an oasis,” says Larry, obviously not referring to the climate that offers little relief from his hot shop. “There are no

rules here. It’s just you. So you tend to look inward.”

Being “great multi-taskers” also keeps them original, Larry says. Virtually nothing goes into their work that isn’t done in their shop. This resourcefulness with glass and metal has resulted in a diversity of Domsky products, from home-blown plates and glassware for clients such as Charlie Palmer to artistic one-of-kind coffee tables for a resident of Vegas’ posh Turnberry Towers. Southern California interior designer Gail Johnson is even having the Domskys create an entire home collection for a client—from bowls and vases to windows and paintings.

Above: Echoing the hues of the ocean outside, “Tranquility” anchors the minimalist living room of a Palos Verdes, California home by designer Aileen Munoz.

Below: A closer look at the triptych reveals the distinctive patterning that gives the piece a sense of movement.





Above: This bowl shows how large and small cross-sections of glass cane are fused together. Right: The Domslys' freestanding glass sculptures are available in high-end boutiques in Las Vegas.

Yet the hottest branch of their business might soon be lighting fixtures. They recently created (and installed) 300-piece and 200-piece chandeliers for a home in Chicago. Also, Jones has asked them to do a chandelier for an art collector whose having a home built in Lake Las Vegas, and the Domslys showed one of their new far-out lamps in the Palos Verdes home just for the home tour.

That latter exhibition not only brought in a new flock of Palos Verdes fans—including Johnson—but inspired a two-month show in the city's art center (starting November 3) that will feature Domsky work.

One other recent assignment of note is a second gig with Munoz, helping her do what she does best: hotels. Specifically, remodeling the prestigious Pacific Palms.

Something obviously clicked between the Vegas artisans and the SoCal designer.

"We hit it off right away," Munoz says. "They were on time, they stayed within the parameters, and they installed the pieces themselves. One of them had a slight crack, a stress fracture, and Barbara said they'd replace the whole thing. She was like, 'Don't you worry about a thing, Aileen. We're going to take care of (your client). As a designer, that's like music to your ears.'" ■

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