



Large glass piece by Rae illustrates his interest and study of the Art Deco period. The smaller circles are cut circles. These are clear, cabochon type pieces backed with colored stained glass. Rae usually does his pieces double, so both sides are completely finished. He usually uses copper for the metal between the cut pieces.



Ron Rae is a meticulous glass craftsman who works from his original watercolor drawings. But, as he transfers the drawing to stained

glass, many changes occur due to the difference in media and the way the light interacts with the glass once it is in place.

Artist brings rich background to stained glass

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Most commercial artists who also work in fine arts like to stress the differences. Ron Rae, graphic designer by profession and stained glass artist in the off-hours, dwells on the similarities.

A graphic designer and illustrator since 1960, Rae moves just about as close to the fine arts in his work as is possible. On his dining room table, he flipped open his graphics portfolio. On the wall by the table was a silk screen print of his and in front of the window, a large stained glass panel, framed in wood by his friend and fellow craftsman, Leonard Kaczor of Rochester.

"I want you to see where I'm coming from," Rae said.

The relationship of the stained glass, the silk screen and the graphics are readily apparent — obviously, the same mind had conceived all three.

Rae has won many awards in the graphic art field. An in-depth article on his work appeared in the 1970 issue of Idea magazine out of Tokyo. He comes to fine arts and graphics with a strong background — Wayne Slate and the Center for Creative Studies where he has taught graphic design.

On top of this, put a longtime interest in art glass starting with Louis Comfort Tiffany and you begin to sense the breadth of his perspective.

Rae has been working in stained glass since 1974 and in those years has picked up some impressive commissions. Together he and Barry Bernstein of Southfield did the two eight-foot square glass murals for Temple Beth-El in Birmingham.

Rae designed the windows and he and Bernstein put them together. With Kaczor as third member of the team, they completed a sculptured wood altar combined with stained glass for the chapel of the Bay Medical Center in



The hanging lamp was Rae's first project in stained glass. He doesn't do them anymore because he likes the hanging pieces, which offer greater flexibility. The silk screen print on the wall is also his.

Bay City. Kaczor did the wood part of this piece called "Tree of Life" which is unusual because of the combination of two media seldom used together.

BERNSTEIN AND RAE also worked together on two large landscape stained glass panels for the Great Steak in Rochester.

One of the immediate impressions Rae's stained glass creates is brilliant, non-stop color.

"I'm known as a colorist," he said. That's true of all his work, he adds. "I want my work (stained glass) to look contemporary, but I like to use these rich colors mixed."

Not only does he work in one of the broadest palettes in glass, but he delights equally in glass textures.

With very smooth stained glass, he is apt to combine heavily rippled glass,

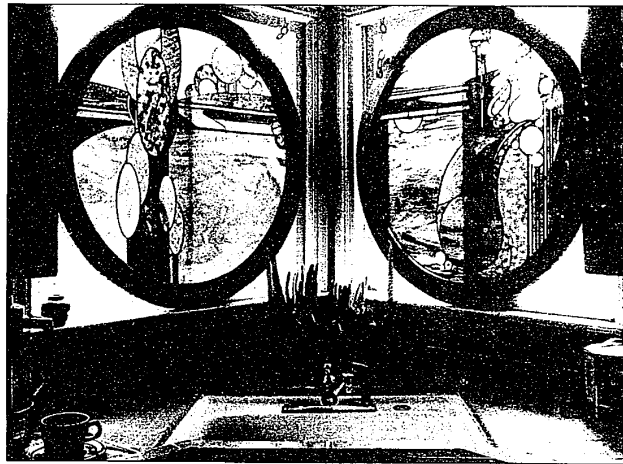
slightly rippled glass and one that has a metallic finish on through many variations of these in the same piece.

Some of the glass he uses seems almost to be a painting within a painting. This pleasant, almost optical illusion glass is made by a talented glassmaker in Portland, Ore.

Along with color and texture, Rae's pieces, most designed to be hung in front of a large window, are like paintings in content. He is partial to landscapes as well as designs with an Art Nouveau and Art Deco approach.

CONSIDERING HIS unlimited use of color and texture, he said, "Most contemporary glass artists instinctively rule out all of this in their work, but I'll use anything — whatever I see that I like, I'll use."

And he does. A given panel may have



Temporarily hung over the kitchen windows, these two Rae stained glass pieces are mounted in frames made by Leonard painting.

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