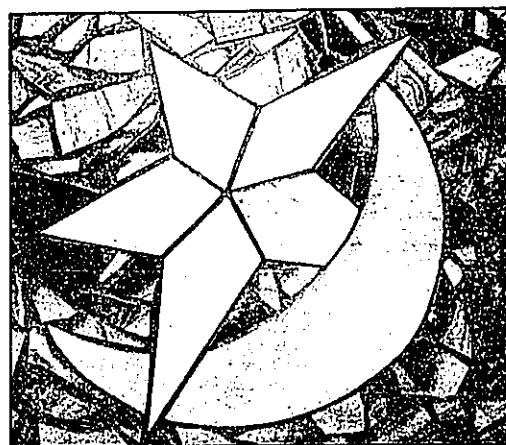




## cover story



**Glittering art:** Kristin Rowe and Michael Fill (above) of Artforms In Glass pose by some of their pieces, all of which – even the fountains and stepping stones – can be placed indoors as well as out. The elegant mosaic work, available at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection in Troy, features a variety of images (right and below). Staff photos by Lawrence R. McKee.

# Fountain treat: Artistry shines outside, inside

BY MARY KLEMIC  
At Home Editor

Fountains by Kristin Rowe and Michael Fill are making quite a splash – in the home as well as out.

Rowe, formerly of Plymouth, and Fill of Canton are the designers and artists of Artforms In Glass, making unusual stained glass art in accessories for the home.

The durable pieces, bearing glittering mosaic patterns, include fountains, tables, birdbaths and stepping stones. They are featured at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy.

"It's functional ... art work. It can be used," said Rowe, now of Sylvania, Ohio, who is also owner of the business.

"People are using everything everywhere."

Customers are using the fountains as interior decor, placing them anywhere from the living room to the foyer.

"It has appealed to everyone."

The fountains are versatile in other ways as well. For example, by adding a Santa Claus figure and floating poinsettias in the basin, a fountain can become a Christmas decoration.

The stepping stones come in a variety of shapes, including square, hexagonal and oval. They can be used in different ways, inside as well as outside. Rowe and Fill make triangular stands that hold the works upright.

Designs and shapes of the items are numerous. The basins of fountains may be softly scalloped like a flower. Their surfaces may be filled with colorful arrangements

of flowers and butterflies or abstract patterns of shades that shift as the viewer approaches.

Images featured on the pieces are numerous. You could see a parrot with vibrant hues, or a delicate mermaid or angel; a rabbit or another woodland creature, or a sailboat; or a glistening fish with a line of round "bubbles" to name but a few.

Bases, of winterized concrete, can vary – a seahorse form can hold a table or fountain surface that bears an aquatic theme, or one like a stem can support a floral motif.

The largest piece is 1,200 pounds – "We can go larger" – and the price range is from about \$36 to \$10,500.

"We've listened to people, what they want, and came up with what we feel is an affordable piece of art work."

No two designs by Artforms In Glass are alike. Rowe and Fill draw up the patterns and fit the glass pieces into them like a jigsaw puzzle.

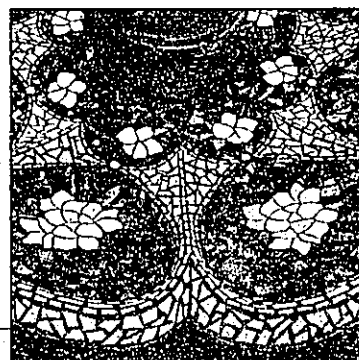
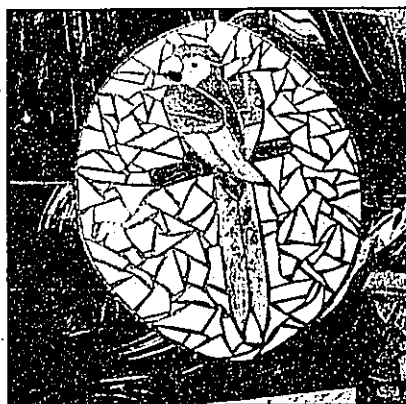
"We're very, very concerned with how things reflect in the sunlight."

Rowe turned a hobby into the business when she wanted to stay at home with her child. She teamed up with Fill, a longtime friend. They exhibited their designs at exhibits at Cobo Hall and in Novi, and their artistry's reputation grew.

"We took the bull by the horns."

Among the praise they have received for their work are comments from a woman who came from Spain.

"She said they were the finest mosaics she had seen in the United States since she had been here."



On the cover: Patterns and designs in pieces by Artforms In Glass are beautiful in color and form. Staff photo by Lawrence R. McKee.