

CANADIAN

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HOUSE & HOME

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October



PROFILE

FAR LEFT: A verre églomisé birds-of-paradise border painted on an antique mirror.
CENTRE: Peter Gorman in front of an abstract mural commissioned by Ki Restaurant, due to open soon in Calgary.
LEFT: An artist at work amidst examples of finished projects.

AT GORMAN STUDIOS, CREATING INTRICATE, OPULENT ART IS ALL IN A DAY'S WORK.

A quarter century ago, artisan Peter Gorman set out to bring decorative painting traditions to Vancouver, hoping along the way to popularize the ancient art forms that recall European basilicas, sumptuous castles and exotic pagodas of the Orient. Located in a 5,000-square-foot atelier, Gorman Studios now comprises a small team of skilled artists who produce exquisite interior accents including plaster finishes, ornamental mill- and glasswork and lacquered Chinese detailing. Their creations are found in homes throughout the world, from Canada to Monaco, the Middle East and Thailand. Soon, Gorman plans

to expand again with the Studio Line, a range of verre églomisé mirrors that will be available in select showrooms in Vancouver, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and New York.

WHAT'S IN HIGH DEMAND?

Reverse-painted glass or verre églomisé (the French name for the technique) because it's unusual. The medium, which has been around for 400 years, is quite complicated because it requires the artist to paint the design on the opposite side of the glass from which it will be viewed. (With a portrait, for example, the artist must paint the eyelashes and lips first.) Also, there's a

movement away from figurative murals toward wall patterns inspired by the Art Moderne movement.

DO THESE TECHNIQUES FIT IN WITH CONTEMPORARY DESIGN?

Yes! We're working on a 1920s penthouse in Monaco with Candy & Candy, a design firm from London. We're doing 10 different rooms with contemporary imagery in various media (including reverse-painted glass) and producing screens and wall coverings for the principal bedroom.

DOES LAVISH WORK LIKE THIS ONLY LEND ITSELF TO LARGE SPACES?

Not at all. Some of our most cutting-edge creations are in powder rooms, where clients want to create a stunning jewel box of a space.

Visit www.gormanstudios.com.

— IRIS BENAROIÁ