

# Ocala Magazine

Marion County's wealth of artisans create works combining aesthetics and practicality.  
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## Jo Ann Jancik

What does your workspace say about you? A look inside Jo Ann Jancik's studio reveals a couple things. She has a sense of humor, evidenced by the collection of all-things Tigger. "He's my pseudo other self," she says. "He's mischievous and so am I." She's pretty organized and she's definitely no small-time stained-glass artisan!

Inside her barn-turned-studio, one large wall is filled with frames chronicling the high-profile commissions and media attention that Jancik Arts International has received. Example: For 10 years now, JAI has done all the stained-glass work for Princess Cruises. Binders and a portfolio brim with photographs of commercial and private commissions, including their biggest single installation: a 21-foot ceiling dome for the Latter-Day Saints' Mormon Temple in Orlando.

This global company with local roots is run by Jancik and her business partner, Angelique Jackson. From Atlanta, Jackson creates the intricate and often symbolic stained-glass designs and handles public relations and client contracts. In Ocala, Jancik is charged with construction, shipping and installation.

Ceiling domes, windows, balustrades and lighting fixtures are their specialties, and "Every design is original," says Jancik. "They are copyrighted with the Library of Congress so even we can't reproduce them."

Despite the extreme focus required in her work, Jancik is pretty easygoing. In fact, in 27 years she's never kept up with how many pieces of glass she cuts for each project — until this last one. As Jancik, along with help from two assistants, worked on the designs for the Emerald Princess ship, she kept a tally: 26,230 pieces.

This is why, she explains, it works so well for Angelique to design and her to construct. "If I were designing, there's no way I'd put that many pieces in it!" she laughs, but means it. It's worth it though. "For a year, all I see are parts and pieces. When it's installed, it's hard to believe I did it. I'm awestruck — I guess that's why I keep doing it."

You won't find any of JAI's work in Jancik's own home, however. "I'd be looking at it saying, 'I should have changed that color or eliminated that line.'" Instead she collects other art. And as her work takes her around the globe, "I try to bring back original pieces of art from the places I've been."

**Jancik Arts International**  
800.254.1593. [www.jancikarts.com](http://www.jancikarts.com)