



**Glass Mermaids**

(Left to right)  
Mermaids  
Randee Diaz,  
Debi Sullivan and  
Cathy Wortham  
Not pictured -  
Kelly Vincent

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**Unique, whimsical, eclectic treasures for gift giving and home décor. Mosaic classes and parties for individuals, groups, and special events.**

If you're tired of shopping at marts, big-box warehouses and chain stores that feature the same merchandise in every city across the country, then Glass Mermaids is the perfect place to leave those "boring retail blues" behind.

Upon entering the bright aquamarine atmosphere, you are immediately drawn into its depths and your underwater adventure begins. A gorgeous, life-size mermaid greets you as you are transformed from landlubber to ocean goddess. (Can you feel your mermaid tail growing?) Just blink twice and let your imagination take over!

The large "painting" on the wall is really a slimly designed aquarium – complete with water, filter, and swimming fish. "Captain Blake" watches over the display of nautical-themed throws, stationary, clocks and other home décor. Watercolor prints, framed exquisite art, decorative glass and stemware, stained glass, garden pots and statues, pillows, seashells, and – of course – lots of mermaids! Soft ones, small ones, cute ones, large ones, painted, male, female, old and young – they add to the delightful whimsy of your Glass Mermaids experience.

Debi Sullivan is the creator of this water-themed wonderland and says that it really all started by accident:

I have always loved glass and began dabbling



in stained glass. I rented a 200 sq. ft. space in Old Seabrook as a place to escape to after a long day at work. On some days, the weather was so nice I'd leave the door open and was truly surprised when people wandered in and wanted to purchase my art and even buy the decorations I had made for my studio!

With her children grown and out on their own, Debi experienced empty nester pains and turned to her art for relief. Along the way she met other women who joined her journey and her hobby "grew legs" – sort of! Glass Mermaids opened its doors in 2002, with Randee Diaz and Cathy Wortham assisting Debi with the daily operations of the business. But it is Debi who infuses the place with its powerful mermaid vibe and its flair for the creative.

"I have no idea when my love of mermaids started," she says. "I've always loved everything



to do with the water. I would love to be a mermaid!" And she says this with such conviction, that you believe someday she may become one! But for now, Debi is happy to share her enthusiasm with her customers. She scrutinizes markets in search of out-of-the ordinary items that you just can't find anywhere else. Many are one-of-a-kind pieces – like the mermaid watercolor paintings created by an artist in Florida. Then there are the GurglePots™ - sculpted by Matt Ellison after he discovered one in a small village in South France. (To find out what a GurglePot is and what it sounds like, you'll have to visit Glass Mermaids!)

"Behind the counter" Randee and Cathy are often busy creating ocean masterpieces out of sculpture, seashells, and other supplies from land and sea. Stop by and check out their newest creation: Mistress of Ike. And book your own creative "Mosaic Party" for your girlfriends. Whether it's a special occasion – birthday, baby or wedding shower (where you can

create a gift for the birthday girl, baby, or bride-to-be) – or if you just need an excuse for some "girl time," Glass Mermaids will throw you a party you won't soon forget! All the "mermaids" dress up in blue wigs with seashell crowns and use tumbled beach glass (known as mermaid tears), shells, and other items to complete

a small piece of art. No experience is necessary! Create a wine glass, fish, cross, or something

completely different. Glass Mermaids provides all your art supplies and you can bring your "adult beverages," delicious food, to create your perfect playtime!

Glass Mermaids also offers mosaic classes to individuals and small groups. Learn to draw a pattern, cut glass, and grout your project. Lazy susans, stepping stones, trays, all done by you!

For Debi, a trip to Glass Mermaids after a long day at her "real job" is like going to Disneyland. She and her husband started their own business in 1984 after both losing their jobs in the same week. "We sold everything we owned, our home, cars, all of it for start up money. Working side by side, they started Sullivan Wire and Rope, which grew and expanded into two other businesses: Sullivan Measurement Technologies (a torque and testing facility) and Third Coast Mats (providing mats for cranes to set on). Debi handles all things financial for the three businesses. But when she leaves the business, her creative brain kicks in and she heads for Mermaids.

"I love this store and all the customers so much. It's really a great stress reliever for me and for a lot of people." Debi says she received her greatest compliment recently when a customer who works at a hospital with terminally ill patients came into Glass Mermaids. After an unusually difficult day at work,

this customer said she came in for some peace and quiet. "She told us how calming our shop was. And that sums up everything we want in our store. We want it to be a place where people can come and forget their problems, relieve their stress, and just have fun!"

