

Art Glass in Orange County

Orlando International Airport

Map #55

Public Art & Commercial Buildings



Aquamarine Vortex. 2000

Visitors will delight in the changing colors of the 100 X 14 stained glass piece, *Aquamarine Vortex* by Louisville, Kentucky artist [Kenneth vonRoenn, Jr.](#) and his Architectural Glass Art. Utilizing stained, etched, sandblasted and dichroic glass, the piece changes color as the observer moves closer. At night, the glass on the outside reverses color as the light becomes brighter on the interior. The calm, relaxing aquamarine color and patterning has the appearance of water as it draws the tropical outdoors into the terminal making it a natural part of the artwork. It was acquired and installed in the newest airside/gate facility that opened in 2000. Since the installation in 2000, the piece was removed due to another expansion project and will be relocated to the main terminal building in early 2009.

Kenneth vonRoenn, Jr. began his career in glass in 1970 after suffering an athletic injury that prevented him from entering law school. He took a job at the Louisville Art Glass Studio facility, starting at the ground level by performing basic cleaning and maintenance duties. The job allowed him access to both the facilities and the staff, and he soon began working after hours in the studio, developing a fundamental knowledge of glass-making techniques through a more personalized training. In 1981, he earned a master's in architecture from Yale University, then went on to work as an architect and glass designer and to teach part-time at the University of Kentucky School of Architecture. VonRoenn considers his architectural degree a critical step in his development as an artist because it helped him understand architectural fundamentals, with a focus on art's relation to architecture. In 1991, vonRoenn bought Louisville Art Glass Studio and renamed it Architectural Glass Art, Inc. He serves as head designer and president, managing a staff of about 30, and has expanded the company, redirecting its concentration to focus on new roles for glass in architecture. The studio has become recognized nationally and internationally for its innovative application of new technologies in the fields of design, architectural art, and glass making. Meanwhile, vonRoenn has executed hundreds of projects around the world—including the world's largest glass sculpture, which crowns the top of Wachovia Bank in Charlotte, North Carolina. His work has been published in numerous books and in every major design magazine.

Orlando International Airport

1 Airport Blvd.
Orlando, FL

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