

## **Rita Shimelfarb**

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Blog: [substack.com/@ritashimelfarb](http://substack.com/@ritashimelfarb)

**Born:** 1972, Novochoerkassk, USSR.

### **Education:**

- 2025 Glass Painting workshop with master glass painter Kathy Walsh Jordan
- 2023 Glass Painting workshop with master glass painter Ellen van Dijk
- 2016 Advanced glass painting residency with master glass painter Sylvia Laks
- 2015 Multi-layer warm glass fusing course with glass artist Paul Messink
- 2014 Traditional glass painting techniques course with glass painter Indre McGraw
- 2013 Advanced glass construction and color course with dichroic glass master Kate MacLeod
- 2012 Glass forming and glass screen printing at Lill Street Art Studio in Chicago
- 1999 Painting courses at the Art Institute of Chicago
- 1992 Bachelors in Math and Computer Science, University of Illinois in Chicago

### **Public Artwork, Publications, Residencies and Recognition:**

- 2025 Featured artist in "Laminator Volume 2" Art Magazine
- 2024 Artist-To-Artist feature publication in Glass Art Magazine.  
Acceptance into British Society of Master Glass Painters.
- 2020 Acceptance into Arts for Illinois Program
- 2017 Artist in Residence at Chute Middle School, Evanston, IL
- 2015 Featured Artist at Ed Hoy's, the largest Wholesale Glass Distributor in North America
- 2014 Public Art commission by Ronald McDonald House® Near Central DuPage, IL  
Ed Hoy's Wholesaler National catalog, Cover Page Featured Artist
- 2013 Acceptance into Illinois Artisans Program  
Acceptance of the International Guild of Glass Artists

### **Selected Exhibitions:**

- 2025 "American Glass Now 2025", MCAM (Mesa Contemporary Art Museum), Mesa, AZ  
"Metamorphosis: The Art of Transformation". Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University. Evanston, IL  
"Edge Of Light" Glass show of Chicagoland Artists at Illumination Art & Design Gallery, Chicago, IL  
"Healing Harmony: Restoring Broken Glass" solo show, Glenview Community Church, Glenview, IL
- 2024 "Artistic Expressions of Today's Woman". Group exhibit. Evanston, IL  
EvanstonMade group show. Evanston, IL  
"American Glass Now 2024", GRAM (Grand Rapids Art Museum), Grand Rapids, MI
- 2023 "Painting with Divine Light". Two-person art glass show including Rita Shimelfarb and Sean Michael Felix, Chicago, IL  
EvanstonMade group show. Evanston, IL
- 2022 Nasty Women Exhibition, Evanston IL
- 2021 "Non-traditional Materials" show, Dragonfly Gallery, Chicago IL  
Evanston Made, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
"Everything That Helps Us Fly", Gallery 901, Open Studio Project, Evanston, IL
- 2020 Evanston Made, On-Line exhibit  
"Art In Place" show, Chicagoland area, On-Line  
Evanston Art Connects, Evanston, IL
- 2019 Evanston Made, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
Nasty Women 3 Exhibition, Evanston IL
- 2018 Evanston Made, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
Nasty Women 2 Exhibition, Evanston IL

- 2017 Evanston Made, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
Nasty Women Exhibition, Evanston IL
- 2016 Mid-States Craft Exhibition, Evansville Museum, Evansville, IN  
Evanston Made, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL  
Solo Show at Ausrine's Art Room Gallery, Evanston IL  
Illinois One State Together in the Arts Conference Exhibition, Evanston, IL
- 2015 The GATHERING: Contemporary Glass from the Heartland Exhibition, Indianapolis, IN  
Ausrine's Art Room Gallery Installation, Evanston IL  
Chicago Stained Glass Exhibition, Chicago IL  
Solstice Invitational, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Site-specific installation, "Kite", Ronald McDonald House, Winfield, IL  
Group Art Show - Stage Left Theater Benefit, Chicago IL
- 2013 Stage Left Theater Benefit Art Show, Chicago IL

### **Permanent work in Public Spaces:**

Chute Middle School, Evanston, IL  
Ronald McDonald House®, Winfield, IL

### **Collections and Commissions:**

Public Arts commission by Chute Middle School, Evanston, IL  
Public Arts commission by Ronald McDonald Charities  
Private collections, Chicago IL  
Private collections, San Diego CA  
Private collection, Los Angeles CA  
Private collection, Fort Lauderdale FL  
Private collection, New York NY  
Private collection, Waukesha WI

### **Instructor and Lecturer:**

- 2025 "Illuminated Art: Stained Glass Reimagined" presenter at Mesa Contemporary Art Museum  
Glass Painting Workshop at Delphi, Lansing, MI  
Glass Painting Workshop at Conrad Schmidt, New Berlin, WI  
Glass Fusing / Painting Workshop at Delphi, Lansing, MI  
Glass Painting workshop for children of Campanella Choir, Glenview, IL
- 2024 Glass Painting Workshop at AGG Conference, Grand Rapids, MI  
Featured speaker at American Glass Guild conference, Grand Rapids, MI.

### **Interviews:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO9JcVnc8sl>  
<https://talkingoutyourglass.com/rita-shimelfarb/>  
[https://youtu.be/8IRoEhnN\\_s4](https://youtu.be/8IRoEhnN_s4)  
<https://youtu.be/UScJnFshSAc>  
<https://youtu.be/pjAdmPkMveQ>

### **Technical Skills:**

Glass: painting / fusing / leaded construction / lamination / Dichroic glass manipulation  
Photography: Photoshop / darkroom proficiency / Polaroid transfers and manipulation  
Project management  
IT: Web design / Software development

Fluent in English, Russian and Ukrainian