

# Vale Craft Gallery

230 West Superior Street, Chicago IL 60654  
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## Kasia Polkowska

**About My Work:** I draw my inspiration from what I find most beautiful and curious - the endless magic, mystery and magnificence of Mother Nature. I am particularly fascinated by mountainous landscapes, rock formations and natural patterns. By observing my surroundings, seeking out new places as well as searching within, I combine dreams with reality. Whatever I conceive prior to picking up my tools and choosing my glass takes on a life of its own. While I meticulously hand cut and shape hundreds, often thousands of pieces of glass, the shapes and colors dictate how the image evolves. The end product always surprises me, as I learn and discover new things through each mosaic I create.

**Bio:** Originally I am from Warsaw, Poland, I spent my adolescence in Northern New Jersey and till recently I lived in Brooklyn. Post graduating from Pratt Institute, where I studied Fine Art with a concentration in painting, I temporarily put painting projects aside to regroup my ideas and to find the right space to accommodate my work. Meanwhile, I began drawing - something I could safely do in my apartment. Unexpectedly, drawing took over and I put my studio search aside. I also had a growing interest in ceramics and wanted to use that medium to create mosaic tiles. Unfortunately I had a very limited budget and the best I could do was to find a job at a stained glass mosaic tile company in Manhattan. They took me with no experience, and in no time I was creating thousands of square feet of tile designs for casinos, restaurants and corporations. The work was monotonous but being allowed to take scraps from the glass dumpster was a good incentive. I collected all the colors of the rainbow and began my own artistic projects at home. I was balancing drawing and mosaics and soon had to choose. I kept going with the glass and was planning to combine drawing and mosaics but that is still to come. Soon my apartment was covered in shards of glass and I finally upgraded to an art studio where I worked day and night experimenting with a new theme of nature. The American landscape made a great impression on me and I spent most weekends exploring trails in the North East. When I realized that I spent all my free time planning little escapes from the city, I decided that its time to go and live in the mountains and experience a specific region. I found a farm up in Vermont where I spent six months as a sheep dairy apprentice. Currently I am living in Chicago, but in the coming months I am planning to complete a series of landscapes inspired by my time in the Green Mountains and the surrounding region. Besides that I am also hoping to complete a few larger and more ambitious pieces.

