



Monica Phillips, Jewelry Artist and ScienceLikeA Girl

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Monica Phillips is a local Issaquah artist who has a love of anything glass. She learned how to fuse glass in Northern California and participated in many shows in the Bay Area prior to moving to Issaquah 14 years ago. When she started working with dichroic glass, she made so much of it that it prompted her to learn traditional silversmithing techniques in order to give the glass the setting it deserved. Her earrings, pendants and rings are handmade using fine silver (.999), sterling silver (.925), or gold-filled metals, along with dichroic fused glass or cubic zirconia “stones”. In addition to the dichroic fused glass, Monica also makes borosilicate beads and blows small glass vessels on her torch.

Lately, she’s become enamored with photographing crystals under a microscope, which is quite challenging and very rewarding. Interestingly, the crystal micrographs (photos taken under a microscope) colors look a lot like dichroic glass; but for different reasons.

Images above are photographs of lysine, alanine, Vitamin C or magnesium chloride crystals taken with a polarized microscope. Lysine, alanine, Vitamin C or magnesium chloride powder is dissolved in very-hot water and mixed. A drop of the solution is placed onto a microscope slide and allowed to dry. As

the liquid is drying, it is forming crystals, which can only be seen under a microscope. These substances have an optical property called Birefringence. This property causes the crystals to act like prisms and produce many vibrant colors when polarized lenses are used with the microscope. None of the colors in these photographs have been enhanced by Photoshop. Seven to 10 images were taken and focus-stacked to sharpen the merged image. This photo was printed using a pigment ink printer; therefore, the print should last decades if kept out of direct sunlight. Each image is unique because the crystals change with age. Her goal is to make unique, colorful art, and not to listen to her inner critic.

You can contact Monica by email at restaphillips@gmail.com, by phone at 925 212 0356.

Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/monicaglass>

Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/ScienceLikeAGirl>

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