

A Commission Story

“It was wonderful to work with Joan, as she is both creative and responsive to suggestions. This was her first hanging lamp, and it works beautifully and reflects my taste.”

— Maxine Linial,
Homeowner,
Seattle, WA

An artwork commission provides the ideal opportunity for a homeowner to incorporate that perfect piece into his or her residence. But commissions can also provide a wonderful push for artists, who may need to learn a new technique or style to create the requested work.

This pendant lamp, commissioned by homeowner Maxine Linial, gave artist Joan Bazaz the opportunity to work in layers of glass. The enameled base layer, created in an antique butterscotch color to avoid glaring hot spots, was fired first. The leaf shapes were created separately, and then fired to the base layer, giving the piece texture and dimension. Finally, the panels were cut to be leaded before the entire pendant was wired.

It was a new technique for Bazaz, who had the benefit of working with a creative and trusting homeowner. “Maxine is a regular client of mine,” Bazaz reports. “And she’s a craft collector, so she has a good eye and knew she wanted to meld a traditional design with my artistic style.”

“This was my first pendant lamp, which I still create on a commission basis—but now I also make ceiling lights, sconces, and suspended glass privacy screens using the same technique” Bazaz continues. “My work seems to be a good fit with Craftsman homes, remodels of traditional homes, and the Northwest style, which has a definite Japanese influence.”

See more of Joan Bazaz’s work on page 64.



Richard Nicol

Joan Bazaz

ARTWORK TITLE	MEDIUM
<i>Leaves Pendant</i>	Glass, metal, and enamels
YEAR	DIMENSIONS
2002	12" x 17" x 17"