

There's an art to classy glass works



Nick Dalton
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AN artist and a glass company have joined forces in Cairns to develop an Australian-first process that creates glass paintings.

The first of Dannis Prowse's three prototypes were unveiled at Glasstech's Stratford factory this week.

Her business Laminart in conjunction with Glasstech spent most of the past year developing a system to create the frameless art glass screens.

The first is a rainforest scene, with the other two described as "bubbles" and "four waves".

They can be used as shower screens, office partitions or simply feature windows.

The leadlight artist, teacher and businesswoman of 20 years said the process had been frustrating but exciting.

She said the liquid lamination process originated in Germany. She and 35 others were taught by Manfred Mislik of Lamberts Glashutte, Germany. Ms Prowse is the only Australian glass artist currently recognised by Lamberts Glashutte.

She said the cast resin or two-component silicones provided an alternate method to traditional leaded glazings.

"This liquid lamination process can be applied to many applications where leaded glazings are just not possible," Ms Prowse said.

"Qualified companies can use this technique to construct glass pictures or glass paintings without lead lines to form individual glazing units of much larger dimensions.

"The pieces of art glass or coloured glass are superimposed on to a toughened glass carrier sheet and by way of application, the two glass layers become a solid glazing unit.

"The decorative and artistic elements of these functional glazing units meet the requirements of the current Australian glazing codes."

Ms Prowse said developing the templates to be cut using a \$1 million water jet cutter at Glasstech proved to be a problem.

She said the rainforest design had to be cut into 52 pieces to make up the entire picture to be bonded to the toughened glass. Ms Prowse said she had to get her computer design files to "talk to" the Autocad and water jet files.

"There was a lot of frustration and tears. I nearly gave up twice," she said.

Ms Prowse said the art glass had enormous potential.

"I'll be able to apply the designs to skyscrapers," she said.

>> Go to www.laminart.com.au



Original: First of its kind rainforest Laminart shower screens designed and built in the Far North. Picture: TOM LEE

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