

Flight of fancy gets international exposure

Written by MARK JAEGER
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Grafton artist known for technical creations shows whimsical side

The work of Grafton stained-glass artist Gary Elshoff is being featured in the American Society of Aviation Artists' 2013 International Aerospace Art Exhibition at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport terminal gallery.

Elshoff is one of 27 artists from around the world to have work selected for the exhibit.



His colorful stained-glass image is titled "Ming's Menace." It depicts a fanciful Flash Gordon-style spaceship flying above the mysterious planet Mongo.

The ASAA was established in 1986, bringing together professional artists who specialize in capturing images of aviation as a fine art form.

Elshoff is a self-taught artisan who began working with stained glass as a hobby. That interest grew into his profession in 2002.

His company, Flying Colors Glass, uses the motto "Turn a plain window into a plane window."

Elshoff's work was featured in an Ozaukee Press story about a commissioned work he created in 2011 titled "Night Vision Romance."

The scene depicted a nightscope image of a U.S. Air Force KC-145 Stratotanker refueling a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter in mid-air somewhere over Pakistan. The two pilots were husband and wife.

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At that time, Elshoff told Ozaukee Press he had made more than 300 glass scenes, almost all of them featuring planes. They hang in homes, offices, restaurants, airplane hangars and, in one case, on the ceiling above a client's bed.

His works include everything from vintage biplanes and World War II warplanes to single-engine Cessnas and huge commercial airliners.

"I use my passion to capture their passion on glass. The real beauty of stained glass is that it can change as the light of the day changes," Elshoff said.

He said the permanence of stained-glass work is its greatest selling point.

"Pictures can fade, digital files can get erased, but an image preserved in glass is forever," Elshoff said.

His art has been featured in such specialized publications as Pacific Flyer and Flying Adventures magazines and the national newspaper General Aviation News.

The ASAA art exhibition runs through Sept. 23.

Image Information: THE STAINED-GLASS creation "Ming's Menace" by Gary Elshoff is being shown in the 2013 International Aerospace Art Exhibition at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.