

**Jan's Gems – October, 2017**

Secrets of the Trade . . . Ah, The Happy Accident!

In last month's email, I wrote in *Jan's Gems* about my silent partners (mannequins) and how they have helped in promoting my jewelry on line. Along with my silent models, I host two dogs and two cats in my studio, who, for the most part just want to be close to me while I work. I feel like the "Pied Piper" when my furry ones are always on the ready to follow me upstairs, even when it's for my third or fourth cup of coffee. Poor babies . . . I think their expectations are a little greater than just a walk upstairs, even when it's for the fourth time. Where's my fife and drum?

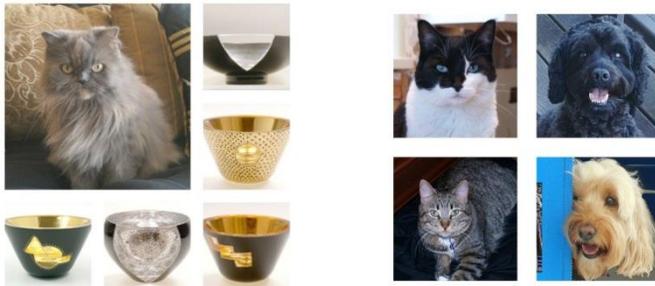
Some of you might already know this story, but I want to repeat it in *Jan's Gems* for those who haven't heard my studio "happy accident."

Here is the story about a frenzied artist and her beloved cat named Cello.

Once upon a time, I was frantically getting ready for an exhibit of my gilded glass bowls, and as I finished each piece, I carefully lined them up on a display unit with several shelves. As always, Cello, my beautiful purring cat, (hence the name) would accompany me to the studio to watch my work progress. I know she must feel involved, even with her many cat naps near my work table.

As I entered my studio, one morning, my sense of accomplishment with production for this upcoming show, quickly turned to one of despair. The big shelf unit with all my new glowing golden glass bowls had crashed on the floor. I was distraught. What was I going to do? Days later when I could breathe again, I was able to fix some of the unbroken bowls by engraving designs to refresh what was damaged, giving me what I now call my Peek-A-Boo and Tuxedo series. Amazingly, those bowls were my best sellers at that exhibit, and continue to be to this day. Some designs of this type are in my shop and on my website, <http://janmaitland.com/section/174700-Gilded-Glass-Bowls.html> and Cello proudly claims her part in that unfortunate, but fortunate accident. The now happy accident has become a part of my design strategy for many of my gilded glass bowls.

Those of you who have ever had the unintended happen when working on a project, don't give up. It might just take you to a place you never dreamed.



Cello and Peek-A-Boo Bowls

My studio mates: Dali, Flower, Lulu, and Daisy