



FUNKY SPLASHBACKS GIVE YOUR ROOM THAT 'WOW' FACTOR

Bespoke art on glass for your kitchen or bathroom

A local artist has turned her flair for an original design into a thriving business; indeed amazing creations by Funky Splashbacks are appearing in the kitchens and bathrooms of the region's most stylish homes.

Splashbacks are designed to go on the wall behind the cooker or hobs, above a kitchen sink, or even in a bathroom, and the glass, hand-painted splashbacks created by Jo Omar at Funky Splashbacks are an innovative alternative to tiles, offering a unique one-off design, an exquisite look; and they are also incredibly practical and easy to keep clean – much more so than tiles.

The talented creator of the funky splashbacks that gave Funky Splashbacks its lively and memorable name was working on her latest designs at her studio in Woolton Hill when *Out & About* met with her, and explained how the business evolved. "I created my first funky splashback some three years ago and it all started from there." She explained. "Visitors would see them and then I would get referrals with people asking for their own. It has steadily grown and at the end of last year I was asked to do four and 2009 has been really busy too.

"Each splashback is made to measure for each individual customer, to specific requirements; there are no standard sizes each piece is cut and painted individually and can take into account the existing colours in a room – for example one client provided swatches from the blind fabric and I was able to incorporate those, while another had a favourite painting and they wanted the colours and shapes used in the splashback. Of course others just want me to create something original, something with that 'Wow!' factor."

"I have always been inspired by colour, pattern and texture," she explained. "Glass is an amazing medium to work with and the nature of glass adds light and colour, natural reflection brings brightness to any kitchen and enhances the whole space. We have even done one for a small downstairs toilet that was really rather dark, but the funky splashback has transformed it and it looks bigger and brighter. We can also create them for bathrooms too. I love creating art in this way. I enjoy working towards a practical end product, so creating funky splashbacks for clients, knowing how thrilled they will be, is truly rewarding. I love the phone calls that come a few days after installation – it must be after friends have been blown away by the artwork and the client just wants to share. It is lovely.

Examples of praise include Chris Wedgwood, of Woolton Hill, who said: "We received an impeccable service right through the design and fitting and now

we have something unique and it enhances our kitchen beautifully. Also our friends now comment we have a work of art in our kitchen and I feel it creates a mood, and changes in different lights." While Catherine McIver, of Highclere, said: "I'm so pleased with my splashback, it changes a nice kitchen into a brilliant one!"

Jo continued: "Each splashback typically takes around four weeks to complete – often having the glass cut to size and prepared can be the longest part of the process, although obviously the size of the splashback is a factor too. We always try and work with the client to fit with their plans, especially if they are having a new kitchen fitted.

"All the splashbacks are made from 6mm or 8mm glass that's toughened and all edges are polished. They are easy to fit although we offer a full installation service and of course kitchen fitters are happy to install our splashbacks.

"Although most of our splashbacks have been the finishing piece to a new kitchen, We also believe the recession has actually increased the demand for our artwork. I strongly believe some of my customers are opting for a funky splashback from Funky

Splashbacks precisely because of the recession. Rather than go to the expense of a new kitchen, they know that the transformation offered by such a unique addition as a funky splashback will refresh and elevate most important room in the house. They can be fitted onto existing tiles so an ideal quick new look!

Funky Splashbacks offer an affordable one-off design statement, whether for the kitchen, the hub of the home, a bathroom – or a dark corner that needs to be brightened up and with prices start at only £300 for what essentially is a piece of art, clearly offers terrific value.

Imagine the excitement of choosing between abstract invasion of colour or a design with subtle shades? And be sure this artist has a portfolio of ideas and design ideas to suit all tastes and a funky splashback from Funky Splashbacks will transform your home.

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Above: Splashbacks artist and founder Jo Omar with an outstanding example of her work.
Top right: Hard at work, the paint is applied to the glass splashback, creating a stunning effect, inspired by colour, pattern and texture.
Top Left: As the splashback glass is cut to size, it can be tailored to any kitchen or bathroom and artist Jo Omar will create an exclusive bespoke design.