



Artist Kathleen Mertzig adds Gac to her paint before mixing it and using a paint pouring technique in her studio near Minong on May 16. Photos by Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

# BITS ‘N’ PIECES

## Minong artist creates artwork from broken glass

By Teri Cadeau  
Duluth News Tribune

**Minong**  
The sound of breaking glass doesn’t bother Kathleen Mertzig. When her favorite glass or light cover breaks, she looks at it as an opportunity. “Normally, when you hear something break, it’s like ‘Ah!’” Mertzig said. “In this studio, it’s not such a big deal. I tell people, if you break something precious to you, bring it here and we can make something amazing out of it. You don’t have to cry over broken glass anymore.” Mertzig takes pieces of broken and cut glass and forms them into spiders, lizards, turtles, motorcycles — just about anything you can think of — in her garage-based art studio at her home in Minong. It all started a few years ago when Mertzig realized she was tired of taking classes. As retirees,



The hands of artist Kathleen Mertzig, left, help move paint around on a canvas as she shows her technique in her studio near Minong.

Mertzig and her husband, Dennis, spend part of their year in Florida, where she had taken several glass working classes and created a few glass pieces she liked. But she wanted to develop her own style and figure out how to do more. “I got to the point where I was like, I know enough, I can do this on my own,” Mertzig said. “Plus they’d often

have these classes where you can’t really do it by yourself. You do some of it and then the next day when you come back it’s all perfect. So you don’t get to learn how to do it yourself.” Mertzig turned to YouTube and gained an extensive knowledge of the art of pouring paint. Using a combination of paint, Gac, Floetrol, WD-40 and a blowtorch, she’s developed her own method of creating unique backgrounds for her glassworks. “I haven’t seen a pour I haven’t liked yet. I like some more than others, but genuinely, they’re all unique and different enough from each other,” Mertzig said. “And it’s something that anyone can do. I had some of my grandbabies out here with me last weekend and we were doing this with the 3-year-old.” **ARTIST:** Page 10

## Hammond Steakhouse is the start of something good

**Superior**  
The Hammond was not the place I envisioned my wife and I ending up last weekend. A few weeks ago a work schedule change gave me Friday nights off work, and my wife, who is also off Fridays, suggested we spend some time this summer checking out supper clubs in Wisconsin. I remember her telling me about the Dalles House in St. Croix Falls and the popovers they served when she was a girl growing up in Chisago City, Minnesota, and I’ve always wanted to check out a few of these places, but I wanted to add a wrinkle. “What if you wrote about it?” my wife asked. She was OK with me

**JAMEY MALCOMB**  
*The old fashioned*  
sharing this little bit of our lives and with an enthusiastic response from my editor, I set about defining what a supper club is. From my research, it seems there are a few traits—surf and turf, old-fashioned cocktails on the menu and a good view—that are shared. I also thought the relish tray was a menu staple but my editor, who I refer to as “my expert on all things Wisconsin,” said they are “fading out of style.” I would raise an eyebrow at this traditional dish



Lisa Malcomb / For the News Tribune  
The Hammond Steakhouse in Superior was sports reporter Jamey Malcomb’s first stop on his planned summer tour of area supper clubs.

leaving the menu, but I don’t like pickles and the likelihood of me ordering a relish tray anyway is very low. So much is my disdain for pickles that my pickle-loving dad once claimed that he



Jamey Malcomb / Duluth News Tribune  
Sports reporter Jamey Malcomb’s king cut prime rib from the Hammond in Superior. Initially, he thought the Hammond was an “unimaginative place” to start his tour of supper clubs, but it turned out to be the perfect beginning.

not reviewing these restaurants and I’m certainly not trying to make fun of them or anyone besides maybe myself. So, the Hammond. This was not where I wanted to start this little adventure. Though on my list of places to visit, it felt like an **MALCOMB:** Page 10