

Michael Clare

PROFESSION: Framer

COMPANY: Clare Frame & Art, 2916 N. 68th St., Scottsdale; (480) 970-8400; clareframe.com

FOCUS: Creating displays for artwork and collectibles

EDUCATION: Self-taught

BACKGROUND: At a young age, Michael Clare knew he was passionate about two things—art and woodworking. With guidance from his father, Clare learned the complex craft of framing and set his sights on pursuing a career in the field.

Originally from New Jersey, he relocated to Arizona in 1982. Several years after launching Clare Frame & Art in 1984, he realized his niche is specialty projects that go beyond basic framing. The craftsman takes on such jobs as creating custom frames to display artwork on curved walls, and developing a display case for a collection of sports jerseys.

Among other projects are: a decorative frame for a flat-screen television that incorporated mirrored doors to conceal the device when not in use; and custom acrylic cases that showcase and preserve jewelry and other valuables. “Coming up with things that aren’t in a picture-framing textbook—these are the projects that make me tick,” Clare states.

With a can-do attitude, Clare, an ASID and IFDA Industry Partner, says he is open to any challenge that will push his creative abilities to the next level. He admits he can be consumed with a project until he finds a solution. He says he often asks himself, “What can we do to really enhance the piece—to look at the artwork and determine the best way to present it?”

Clare believes his clients’ possessions deserve the utmost care. His workshop is meticulously organized and kept exceptionally clean in order to protect the valuables he prepares for display. He is known to visit clients’ homes during the design



phase and at the time of installation to ensure quality results are delivered.

Clare has won several awards for innovation and service, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Interior Design Association, Southwest Chapter, and the American Society of Interior Designers Industry Partner Merit Award. □

Top: Michael Clare displays hundreds of samples of frame moldings in his Scottsdale shop. **Above left:** Working with interior designer Anne Gale, he framed and mounted panels of a 19th-century Japanese screen to slide over a master bedroom window. **Above right:** Clare collaborated with Annette Kenner of Donna Decker Design Inc. to create this seven-sided pedestal, which is lit from within to illuminate the Lucite sculpture by Victor Ostrovsky.