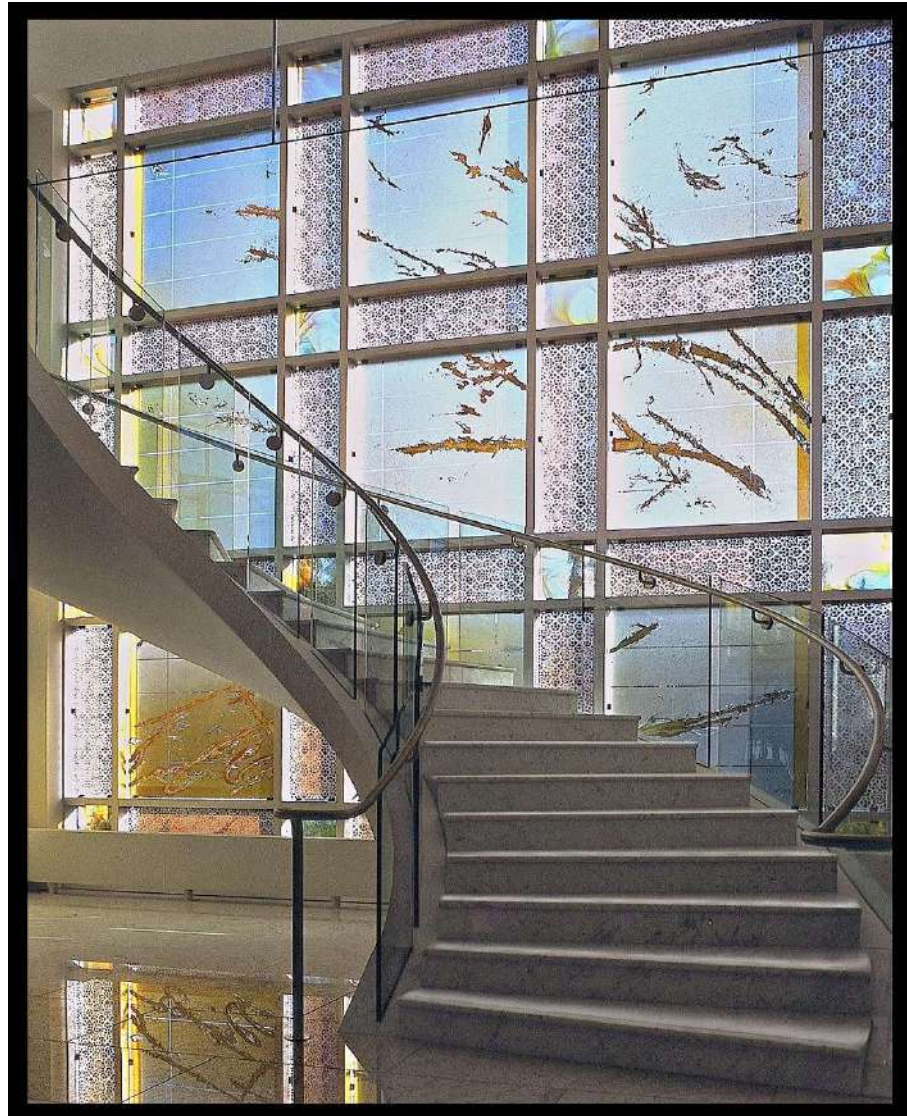


## SARAH HALL

Sarah Hall is an acclaimed Canadian glass artist, educator, and writer who lives and works in Toronto, Ontario. Her large-scale designs can be found in cathedrals, synagogues, schools, government buildings, and private residences worldwide. She was first introduced to stained glass at the age of nine. At the time, her father served as the Chairman of the Building Committee for the family's church in her hometown of Dundas, Ontario. "I fell in love with colour and light," she says of that time spent in the church. It was then that she decided that she would "make windows" as her life's work. Beginning her studies in stained glass at Sheridan College (Oakville, Ontario), Hall proceeded to study architectural glass in the UK at the Swansea College of Art in Wales and at The City & Guilds of London Institute. She then worked with renowned glass artist Lawrence Lee (1909-2011) during his time as glass master at the Royal College of Art (London, England). She also learned Middle Eastern glasswork techniques in Jerusalem, such as gold-leaf application. She established her own studio in 1980, specializing in contemporary art glass and mosaics. She shared studio space with other notable Canadian glass artists at this time, including Robert Jekyll, Steven Brathwaite, Karl Schantz, and Andrew Kuntz, along with photographers Robert Burley and Andre Beneteau. She continued to expand her knowledge of glasswork in this period, learning methods such as reverse painted glass, sandblasting, glass etching, mosaic, appliqué, screen printing, and fused glass. She also developed a signature style of building designs "through layering colour and imagery," as she says. Hall also began working with other glass studios, increasingly fabricating her work in larger facilities in Europe, such as Glasmalerei Peters Studios (Paderborn, Germany), enabling her to work on a monumental scale. In 2003, she was commissioned to create a large installation for the foyer of the Embassy of Kuwait in Ottawa, Ontario.



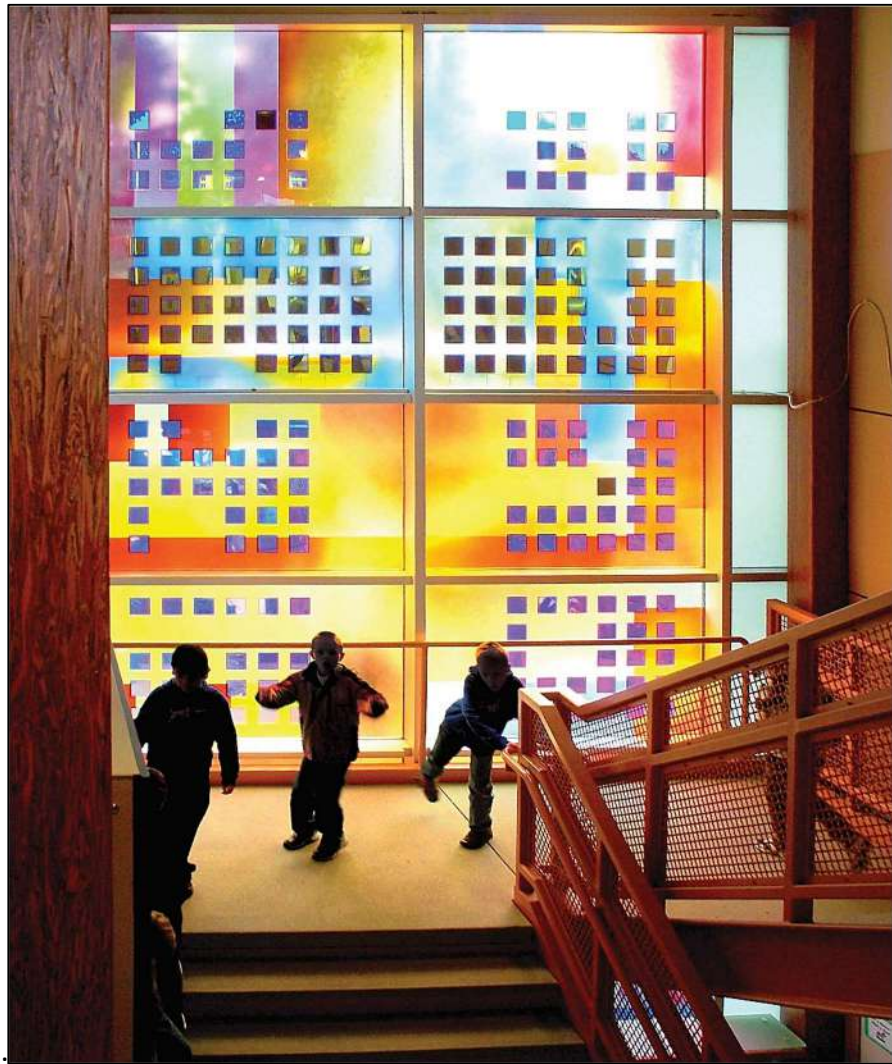
**Figure 1a.** Sarah Hall, *The Sea of Kuwait*, 2003. Antique glass, airbrushed enamels with gold and copper leaf, 793 x 610 cm. Embassy of Kuwait, Ottawa. [View Source](#)





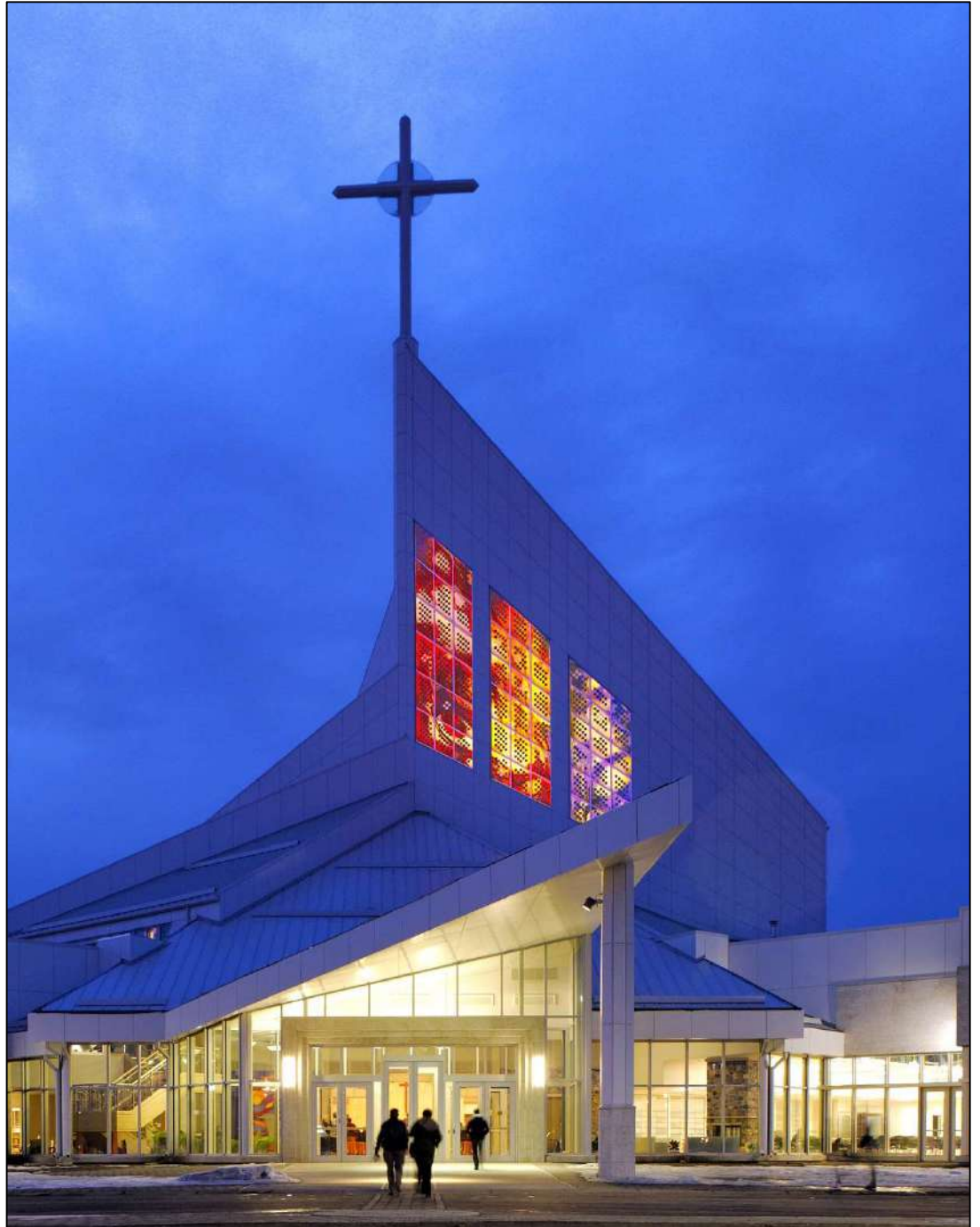
**Figure 1b.** Sarah Hall, detail of *The Sea of Kuwait*, 2003. [View Source](#).

This piece, titled *The Sea of Kuwait* (2003) (figs. 1a and 1b), is comprised of sandblasted, air brushed, and screen printed antique glass with gold and copper leaf accents, demonstrating the artist's penchant for weaving together ancient and modern techniques, as well as historic references and contemporary designs. In the early 2000s, Hall began incorporating photovoltaic technology into her glass, pioneering the development of environmentally friendly art glass.



**Figure 2.** Sarah Hall, *Science of Light*, 2009. Twelve panels of airbrushed and hand painted glass with embedded solar cells and laminated dichroic grid, and a solar LED fixture, 60 x 182 cm each. [View Source](#)

Developing techniques to embed solar cells into glass, Hall now creates art that can convert solar power into light, as seen in the LED fixtures of *Science of Light* (2009) (fig. 2) at Grass Valley Elementary School in Camus, Washington.



**Figure 3a.** Sarah Hall, *Lux Gloria*, 2011. Airbrushed glass panels with embedded solar cells and laminated dichroic glass, 1128 x 365 cm each. [View Source.](#)





**Figure 3b.** Sarah Hall, detail of *Lux Gloria*, 2011. Airbrushed glass panels with embedded solar cells and laminated dichroic glass, 1128 x 365 cm each. [View Source](#)

On a much larger scale, Hall embedded the south façade windows of the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (2011) (figs. 3a and 3b) with thousands of solar cells that provide the cathedral, as well as Saskatoon's electrical grid, with power. This use of glass marks a historic shift for the art form, enabling the medium to create electric light. Hall's interest in making glass art that responds to environmental issues has also led to her creation of bird-friendly glass in hopes of fighting the worldwide problem of bird injuries and deaths caused by collisions with glass buildings. Hall has published numerous articles and has authored or co-authored five books on glass. She also taught the art and history of stained glass at Regis College at the University of Toronto. In 2017, Sheridan College created the Sarah Hall Glass Library, preserving hundreds of samples of Hall's glass as an ongoing resource for students and scholars studying glass techniques and experimentation. (ORO)