

**PRESS RELEASE: Massimo Cruciani - Craftsman of Color Exhibits in San Diego
June, 2004, San Diego, California**

Italian glass painter Massimo Cruciani has his first Californian exhibition at the new Artisan Design Group showroom located at 332 J Street, San Diego (Ph: 619-269-1211) in San Diego's historic Gas Lamp District. Artisan Design Group is an interior design showcase and service offering the finest examples of craftsmanship available in the country, as well as exclusive access to leading international artists.

Set comfortably within the backdrop of the 'Urban Renaissance', where "life is art", Cruciani's splendid paintings on glass bring the colors and dimensions of the Italian countryside, with its medieval hilltop towns, to vivid life in downtown San Diego. Jaimi Julian Thompson, President of ADG, discovered Cruciani's extraordinary work (<<http://www.cruciani.com>> www.cruciani.com) on one of her trips to Tuscany and has realized her dream of bringing the best into the homes of San Diego.

Born in Rome in 1946, Massimo Cruciani was a professional photographer at age twenty. His 'searching eyes' took him all over the world, and he finally settled in Umbria, Italy's beautiful 'green heart', where paintbrushes usurped the role of his camera. Cruciani has spent the last twenty eight years perfecting his unique style and technique, moving from oils to water colors and then to acrylics on glass. His misty-toned colors, amorphous shapes, and the transparency of his medium, create continuous and delightful variations of light and shadows. Cruciani's work charms all those who share his 'soulful searching' and an even greater sense of freedom and fun.

Since his debut at Spoleto's 'Festival of the Two Worlds' in 1976, Cruciani has shared his passion for his art with the thousands of Americans who have visited his galleries in Tuscany and Umbria. As a remarkably successful 'Craftsman of Color', he never tires of exploring in that realm where desire meets the imagination, and reality intermingles with fantasy. He has participated in numerous individual and collective exhibitions throughout Europe, and since 1981 he has lived and worked in Assisi, where, as he proudly explains, "it is possible to meet the world without leaving my studio". Permanent displays of his original glass paintings can also be found in Seattle (WA), Gstaad and Ascona (Switzerland), Stockholm (Sweden), and even the Vatican Contemporary Art Museum. First in the city of San Diego, Jaimi Thompson is presenting the latest Cruciani pieces from his Californian catalogue at the Artisan Design Group.

Many people the world over have admired Cruciani's sweeping artistic perspective, which simplifies without losing the liveliness of its details. His images recall and inspire a classic beauty in danger of disappearing - that revitalizing our appreciation for the perfection of the natural world. This unique artwork aims to restore our sense of an uncontaminated and faraway place, poised between the real and the romantic, like an echoing fable. And if we let go, our mind's eye begins to trace a labyrinth of rooftops and landscapes, losing itself in the magnificent fields of poppies and sunflowers. Images such as these trigger a 'renaissance' of sorts, as we are invited to savor the present, and discover a new depth of appreciation for the subtle pleasures of impressions, metaphors and ambiance. The Italian magic of Cruciani's glass paintings lies in their capacity to celebrate that often elusive beauty in simplicity, which we all yearn for, as they remind us that the world is still full of color.

Only a few weeks old, with its Grand Opening Celebration (May 22-23rd), the Artisan Design Group will play host to Cruciani's work with special presentations planned throughout the year. The artist and his friends recently flew in from Italy and across the USA to be at this opening weekend, which proved to be a great success. The many Californians who have met Cruciani over the years keep coming back for more and are always delighted to share in the convivial atmosphere that his generous personality and

quintessentially Italian style affords.

This newly established Assisi-San Die

go relationship promises excellent collector opportunities for those who take pleasure in surrounding themselves with the finest craftsmanship available, and enhancing the beauty of their homes and the privileges of their lifestyle.

For more information, contact Artisan Design Group at (619) 269-1211 or info@ArtisanDesignGroup.net.