

NANI CROZE



Nani Croze has been a resident of Kenya for 46 years. Originally from Germany, she came to East Africa to observe elephants in Serengeti Research Institute. She had studied animal behavior [Ethology] under Prof Konvad Lorewz.

She comes from a long line of artists, grandparents, parents, uncles and aunts – her father HAP Grieshaber was a well-known wood cut painter. Nani is an artist and educator, apart from an environmentalist. She founded the first Rudolf Steiner School in East Africa 20 years ago which has provided scholarships to hundreds of young Kenyans. Then 1979 came the start of the famous Institution synonymous with Nani Croze **The Kitengela Glass Research and Training Trust**, a centre for stained glass and recycling used glass into art and glassware.

The Trust has conducted numerous glass training workshops including one for young women from Kibera slums doing glass beads, making pottery, mosaics from recycled glass shards. Together with a number of young Kenyan artists Nani has created many public art works. These include stained-glass sculptures, murals, mosaic at Gertrude's Garden, Maendeleo House, churches, hotels, hospitals, banks, various embassies, the Ministry of Water, UNEP and the National Museum of Kenya. In 2010, Nani founded the **Kenya Arts Diary** an annual calendar and catalog of young Kenyan artists.

Besides the re-cycled glass factory at Kitengela Plains, Nani and her staff have transformed a parched and arid landscape into a green oasis covered in over 1,000 indigenous trees, at the centre of which is a mud and stained glass museum. A glass "Village" has been constructed for the staff, powered with sustainable energy supplies, including solar, wind and biogas. In this regard, Nani says " I feel Kitengela Glass serves as a remarkable illustration of what can be done to transform an arid land into an oasis of flowers, foods and a menagerie of domestic animals and wildlife, all of whom are living a peaceful life".

Nani has exhibited her glass work many times in local galleries, in Germany, the USA and elsewhere.