

# Reverse Glass Painting Craft

Winters Heritage House Museum, Elizabethtown, PA [www.ElizabethtownHistory.org](http://www.ElizabethtownHistory.org)



Reverse Glass Painting is done directly on a piece of glass.

The image is viewed through the unpainted side of the glass.

Since the first layer the artist paints will be covered by successive layers, the artist must paint the details first, then move to more general areas. Not only do you view the painting from the reverse side, but the artist essentially creates the painting in reverse process (detail to general).



## Reverse Glass Painting History

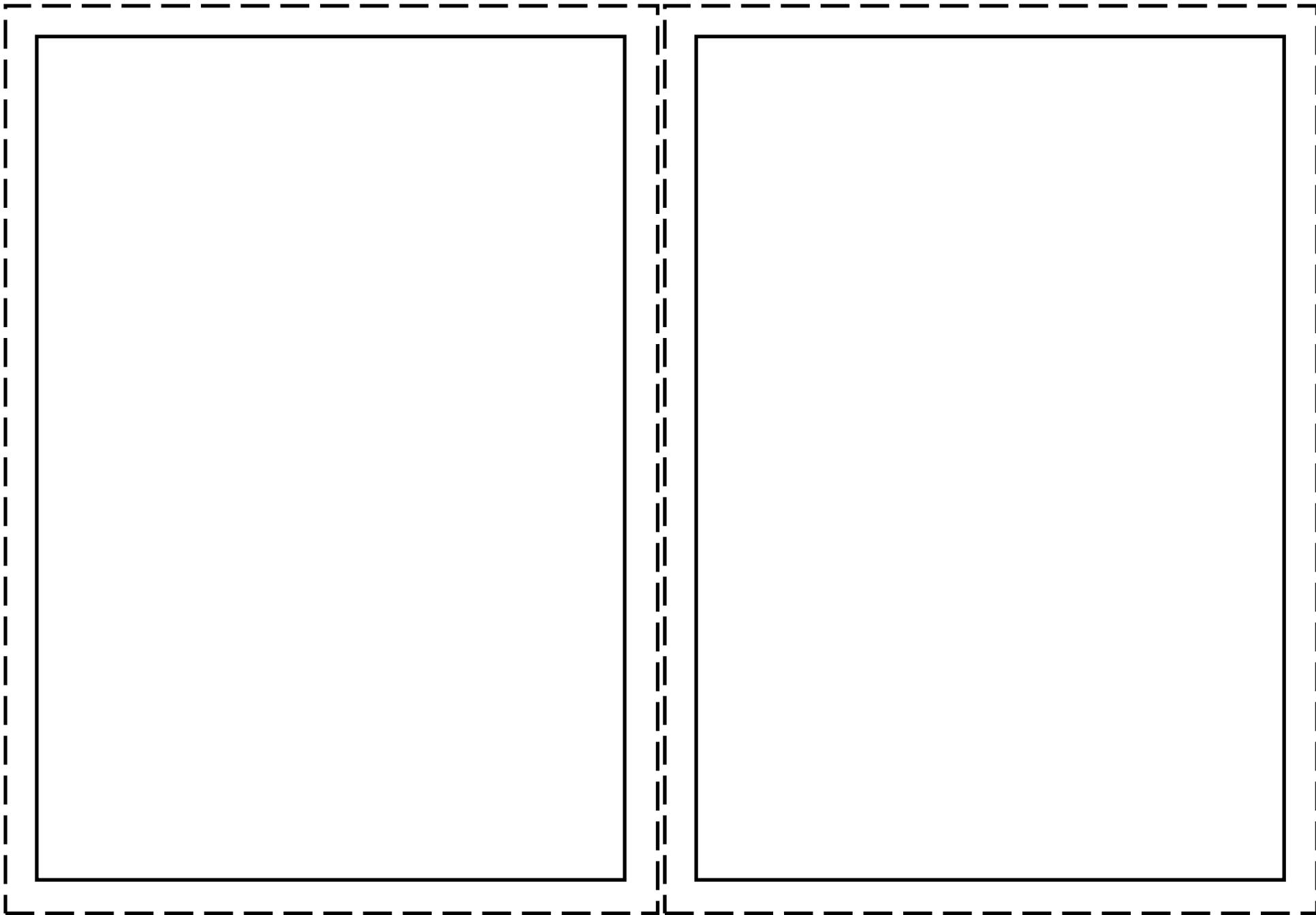
The history of reverse glass painting is somewhat ambiguous. While some date it back to circa 4 AD, it was most commonly used for sacral paintings in Europe during the middle ages.

During the 19th century the technique spread widely, throughout Europe to Italy, China, Japan and the United States as a folk art. During the first half of the 20th century the technique became almost extinct, but made a strong comeback in the second half of the century.

To complete your Reverse Glass painting you will need; Acrylic craft paints in colors of choice, paint brushes, a 5x7 picture frame with glass (use one with Plexiglas for children), a paper plate (palette), water for rinsing brushes, and a simple sketch. We are suggesting a scene with a snowman. Use the next page to sketch your image, then cut it out on the dotted line.

Skills; drawing, painting, following directions. Concepts; Creation, history learning, Creativity

1. Remove the backing materials from the frame. Carefully remove glass or Plexiglas from frame (Please use caution handling glass as edges are sharp!) Tape your sketched image along one long side of the glass and lay it flat with the glass on top. Your drawn picture should be visible through the glass.
2. Using the sketch as a guide, paint just the outline of your image (black is always a nice outlining color, but feel free to experiment.). You may need to let this dry and then paint another coat to make it opaque. At any point, you can lift up the glass and flip the paper away to check your progress from the “right” side of the artwork.
3. Fill in the details of the picture, first, and then work to the more general areas. Let each layer dry before proceeding to the next first layer. For example; paint in the carrot nose, eyes and buttons of the snowman first. Paint in the other details like a broom and hat, falling snow, etc. Then fill in the body of the snowman, then the ground and sky. Continue adding layers working from details to general areas. Paint the picture all the way to the edge of the glass.
4. Complete the painting by adding a final layer to the background, and give it time to dry. Reinsert the glass and backing materials into the frame, and display your artwork (or wrap it up and give as a gift).



Keep the main part of your picture inside the solid line. Then cut out the 5x7 rectangle along the dotted line.