

HOUSTON LLEW



Houston Llew was just seven the first time he got lost in the art world. A boy gone missing at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, he was found sitting on a bench, quietly pondering Botticelli's 'Annunciation' and sketching its rays of light in his notepad. In later years – with less panic spread to his elders– Houston shared the same quiet moments in Holland with Van Gogh and with da Vinci's Mona Lisa at the Louvre.

A southern boy, Houston attended school in the Alabama town of Auburn then went to work in the seaport of Savannah. He moved along the Gulf of Mexico where he kept books for a living and cast netted to keep his sanity. The spirited old South flirted with his penchant for icons but Houston Llew had not yet found the prima vitae he sought to breathe his imagery to life.

It was while visiting family in Santa Fe that Houston would meet the artist Zingaro. The master found in Houston a young man worthy of mentorship and came to share with him his precious gift – this luminous medium of glass fired to copper – a timeless technique the artist had inherited from the late masters Craig Ruwe and Fred Ball. When Houston envisioned his imagery embraced in this fire, he knew he'd come full circle – once again, lost in the world of art.

Spiritiles are hand hued in glass and painted with fire on precious copper. Copper was used more than five millennia ago in Sumerian and Native American art. Colorful artifacts of glass fired on copper have been found in the ruins of ancient Greece, China and the Isle of Man, so your Spiritiles may be treasured for generations to come.