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His pieces are often informed by flowers, sea creatures and insects or by Asian iconography. Quang and Gates collaborate on design and welcome input from customers. “We have made custom lights for so many different types of commercial spaces, restaurants, offices of all kinds, yoga studios, hotels, grocery stores, bakeries and our local hospital. And of course for people’s homes,” he said.

Quang further explained his collaborative process. “Sometimes we work with interior designers, but more often than not we work directly with the home or business owner,” he said. “We really love the inspiration that can happen when working directly with our customers, designing lights for their homes. Often they bring new ideas.”

Through the years, Quang noted that custom projects have gotten bigger and more elaborate. His works can also now be found in an array of art galleries, including Imogen Gallery in Astoria, Luisa Mack Jewelry in Ilwaco, Washington, and Metro Lighting in Berkeley, California, just to name a few.

Another of his pieces can be seen on a soaring ceiling in the cancer center of Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

HiiH lights’ local barn studio also offers classes. “I have taught paper making classes, and before the pandemic we hosted a summer bazaar and a winter bazaar which were super fun community events bringing together local makers,” he said.

As for this year, they are still considering plans for classes and events. “We don’t have any scheduled but would be available if a group or organization is interested in paper making,” said Gates. “We really love being part of a small, vibrant community which values small businesses and artists.”

In the meantime, the studio will be on full view during this month’s Astoria Open Studios Tour, with completed lamps and new works in progress.



Lam Quang, center, in his Astoria lighting studio.



Michael Mathers  
ABOVE: Lighting pieces hang by windows at Columbia Memorial Hospital.  
LEFT: Quang’s lighting pieces are inspired by nature, as well as by tradition.