



Biography

Growing up in Southern California, Eric Ehlenberger's childhood interests were focused mostly on bodysurfing and skateboarding. He also exhibited a strong interest in the sciences, which nurtured an attraction to light, electricity and prisms. Initially enrolled in a pre-veterinary medicine curriculum at the University of California at Davis, his interest in science led him into the study of physiology and psychology and he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychophysiology. Intending to pursue an academic career in research on altered states of consciousness, Ehlenberger completed his doctorate degree in medicine. Ultimately, however, he elected to pursue a career in the clinical practice of emergency medicine.

In 1982, while still in training in emergency medicine at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Ehlenberger developed an affinity for sculpture with particular emphasis on the use of light. He studied neon, hot glass and metal working techniques, putting together his first art studio in a firehouse he renovated in the Uptown district of New Orleans. Filled with his sculpture, Ehlenberger's firehouse home and studio were featured in the Home and Garden Television Series, "Extreme Homes." In 1999, Ehlenberger opened glassLight gallery in the heart of the French Quarter and started gaining more recognition for his sculpture. In 2002, after outgrowing his firehouse studio, Ehlenberger renovated a large, historic church in the Faubourg Marigny district of New Orleans where he moved his art studio and created a large studio art gallery, "Venusian Gardens." With soaring 40-foot ceilings and a large exhibition space, it has allowed Ehlenberger to expand on the "Venusian World" theme of his sculpture and develop his work on a grander scale in an environment conducive to its viewing.

Ehlenberger's work has been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He was awarded fifth place in sculpture at the Biennale Internazionale Dell'Arte Contemporanea 2003 in Florence, Italy. Ehlenberger still works full-time in the emergency room as he continues to pursue his passion for making exotic, luminous sculpture. Continuing to develop the "Venusian World" theme in his artwork, he has also begun producing luminous furniture as well as unique wall sconces incorporating antique glass and neon. His future plans include more environmental and architectural sculpture installations, stage and set design as well as another tour featuring his sculpture.