



# Mosaic Arts International 2018

by Shawn Newton

Photography by the Artists

The 17th Annual Mosaic Arts International exhibition series (MAI) sponsored by the Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) was a creative, innovative, and diverse collection offering a unique and compelling view of mosaic art in the 21st century.

## Exhibition Areas

Jacki Gran, SAMA President, offered insights into the various types of mosaic art represented in MAI. "The Fine Art Exhibition reflected the multiplicity of the mosaic medium and its unlimited applications. Architectural and Site-Specific work displayed the best in contemporary architectural and in situ mosaics from SAMA's diverse international membership. The Invitational Exhibition presented the work of internationally recognized mosaic artist, Sophie Drouin, who delighted viewers with her spectacular use of color and texture.

## Fine Art Jurors

SAMA was thrilled to have four outstanding jurors for this year's MAI Exhibition. They provided excellent observations on the work presented by the exhibitors and the world of mosaic art in general.

**Pamela Irving, Melbourne, Australia.** "Certain 'styles' appear to be emerging, defining what might currently be considered 'in vogue.' It is invaluable to take workshops to learn new skills, but artists must always strive for individuality."

**Lindsay R. Parrot, Queens, New York.** "Some of the selected mosaics are abstract, while others are representational. Many are exceedingly colorful, while certain selections are quite monochromatic. The approaches to texture, the reflectivity or absorption of light, and the size and shape of the tesserae are varied and make for a compelling body of work."

**Carol Shelkin, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** "This early art form displays pioneering techniques that invite the viewer to look at mosaic art in a completely new way. I cannot think of another medium that extends itself with such innovation, originality, and inventiveness."

**Julie Burros, Boston, Massachusetts, Architectural & Site-Specific Juror.** "We do a lot of community engaged work in Boston, so it was a treat to see this kind of work being created all over the world in so many kinds of environments and contexts. I look at intention and impact. What would change for people because that piece existed in that place?"

## Fine Art Awards

### Best in Show

#### *Primordial Traveler*

**Andryea Natkin**

Chicago, Illinois

24" x 18" x 1"

Stone, smalti, shell

2017

"I am fascinated with the idea of seeds—their form, texture, and shape—their nature and their significance. They represent not only the very beginning of life but also possess the essence of what they are to become. Their unique historical code is the road map of our existence."

## Contemporary Innovation Award

#### *The Hol(e)y Book: where am I?*

**Karen Dimit,**

New York, New York

5" x 37" x 20.5"

Smalti, gold smalti, stained glass, blue kyanite, hematite, granite, marble, stone, leather, millefiori, china, reinforced concrete, gold leaf, acrylic

2017

"My male-dominated religion and upbringing have had an effect on my sense of self-worth. Yin and yang—the balanced concept of female and male duality—seem to be dramatically out of balance due to the subjugation of the feminine to the masculine in our global society."

## Technical Distinction Award

#### *As the Fish Rots*

**Sandra Groeneveld**

Montverde, Florida

40.75" x 27" x 1"

Marble, Italian smalti, white and yellow gold smalti

2017

"'As the fish rots from the head, all sanity and decency is dead.' It was an interesting experience for me to pour ugly thoughts into something that is still appealing to me artistically."



Andryea Natkin, *Primordial Traveler*



Karen Dimit, *The Hol(e)y Book: where am I?*



Etty Hasak, *Keep Peeling*

## Juror's Choice: Pamela Irving

### *Keep Peeling*

**Etty Hasak**

Chicago, Illinois

22" x 24" x 7.50"

Clay, smalti, stone, rusted iron

2017

"My clay pieces emphasize the alluring, three-dimensional texture of tree bark. By using a multilayered construction, I invite the viewer to look beneath layers and discover what is deep within."

## Juror's Choice: Lindsay R. Parrot

### *Verbatim*

**Cherie Bosela**

Orlando, Florida

23" x 21.50" x 3"

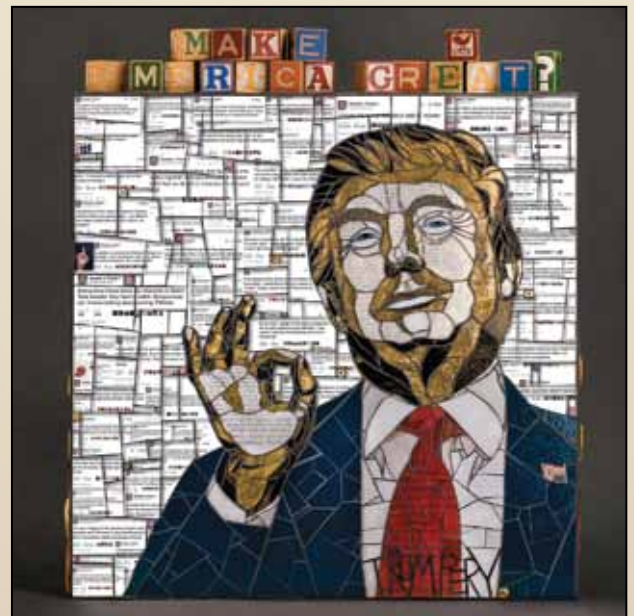
Glass, millefiori, American flag pin, vintage ABC wooden blocks, fused glass, gold leaf, iridescent gold paint

2017

"Under the glass, the entire background is covered with the president's actual tweets and parts of his speeches, while his American flag pin is flipped upside down—a sign of distress, not disrespect."



Sandra Groeneveld, *As the Fish Rots*



Cherie Bosela, *Verbatim*



## Juror's Choice: Carol Shelkin and Members' Choice Award

### *The Beauty That Still Remains*

**Donna Van Hooser**

Goodyear, Arizona

24" x 24" x 2.50"

Wasser Glass, foundry mold

2017

"In the words of Anne Frank, 'I don't think about all the misery, but about the beauty that still remains.' Seventy years since the publication of Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl*, and her words still provide an example of the strength of the human spirit in confronting adversity and hardship."



Donna Van Hooser, *The Beauty That Still Remains*

## Architectural and Site-Specific Awards

### Best Architectural

#### *Fishers of Men/Manannán mac Lir Mosaics: Spirit of Place*

**Meghan Walsh**

Washington, D.C.

**Rachel Sager**

Perryopolis, Pennsylvania

**Julie Sperling**

Ottawa, Canada

**Deb Englebaugh**

Mercer, Pennsylvania

**Lee-Ann Taylor**

Weaverville, North Carolina

Location: Cong, County Mayo, Ireland

390 mosaics within an 18' x 23' x 9' structure

Irish limestone and sandstone, Youghioghenny Glass

2017



The *Spirit of Place Fishers of Men* is a sacred space, part of a series of worldwide architectural installations and the first to include mosaic art. The work pushes the boundaries of what is possible in spontaneous, intuitive mosaic art and the interdependent relationship of mosaics and architecture.



Meghan Walsh  
Rachel Sager,  
Julie Sperling,  
Deb Englebaugh,  
Lee-Ann Taylor,  
*Fishers of Men/  
Manannán mac Lir Mosaics:  
Spirit of Place*

### Best Community Mosaic

#### *Just Like the Lotus*

**Joshua Winer**

Watham, Massachusetts

Location: Suan Prung Psychiatric Hospital, Chiang Mai, Thailand

15' x 22.50'

Thai ceramic tile

2016

"This mural was created in conjunction with the Psychiatric Division of the American Embassy in Thailand and fabricated by hospital patients (adults and children), nurses, and volunteers. The four stages of the growth of the lotus is a metaphor for human development according to Buddhist text."



Joshua Winer, *Just Like the Lotus*

## Juror's Choice: Julie Burros

### *Come to the Well*

**Karen Glanders**

Nashville, Indiana

Location: St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Bloomington, Indiana

84" x 144" x 1.50"

Smalti

2017

"I use my art to communicate and serve those I love and those who need. The pastor of this church requested I create an image depicting Christ welcoming parishioners by gifting them with His water (the Living Word or Holy Spirit)."



Karen Glanders, *Come to the Well*

## Invitational Exhibition: Sophie Drouin

### *Evanescence*

**Sophie Drouin**

Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

15.50" x 13"

Marble, antique gold smalti, granite, terra-cotta, hand knit copper wire veil

2010

Sophie Drouin is a second generation Canadian artist whose alchemical blend of natural and manmade materials results in exquisite sculptural mosaic explorations of weather patterns, the natural world, and its relationship with humanity.

Classically trained in Italy, France, and the United States, Drouin is the English editor of the French *Mosaïque Magazine*, and her worldwide success includes professional exhibits, mosaic installations, serving as a juror for important competitions, and teaching her unusual technique.

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Visit [www.americanmosaics.org](http://www.americanmosaics.org) for more information on the Society of American Mosaic Artists and its goals.



Sophie Drouin  
*Evanescence*