

2016 Mosaic Arts International Exhibition



*The Best in Show Fine Arts category awarded
to Millenium by Laskaris Atsuko, stained
glass, 22-1/2" x 27-1/2", 2015.*

by The Staff of the Society of American Mosaic Artists

The 15th Annual Mosaic Arts International Exhibition (MAI) series, sponsored by the Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA), is a creative, innovative, and diverse collection that offers a unique and compelling view of mosaic art in the 21st century. Presented April 4–9 during SAMA's Mosaic Art Summit in San Diego, California, the selected works reflect the multiplicity of the mosaic medium and its unlimited applications.

Regardless of the style, colors, textures, materials, or vision, each of the works exhibited speaks an ancient language with a contemporary translation. The 2016 exhibition is comprised of three segments, presented online and in two highly energized venues at the NTC Liberty Station in San Diego.

Honoring Noted Mosaic Artists

Mosaic Arts International 2016: Masters Invitational is on exhibit at Casa Valencia Galería from March 31 through May 27, 2016. In partnership with the Niki de Saint Phalle Charitable Art Foundation (NCAF), SAMA celebrated French artist, **Niki de Saint Phalle** (1930–2002) with a spotlight on her work while living in La Jolla, California, near the end of her life. A special presentation also honored beloved SAMA member, art historian, and mosaic scholar, the late **JeanAnn Dabb**.

The exhibition also includes works by two additional artists. **Irina Charny** (Irvine, California) is an award-winning artist with an extensive list of collectors, including the Crocker Museum in

Sacramento, California. **Lynne Chinn** (Plano, Texas) has been recognized with several international art prizes and publication features. Her fine art mosaics are represented in private homes and in public places all over the United States and Canada.

The Best in Contemporary Fine Art Mosaics

Mosaic Arts International 2016: Fine Art, a juried exhibit featuring the best in contemporary fine art mosaics from SAMA's diverse international membership, was presented at the Women's Museum of California, a women's history museum and community educational resource. This show is on exhibit from March 31 through May 27, 2016. The exhibition was juried by Elaine M. Goodwin, internationally celebrated mosaic artist; Sherri Warner Hunter, American mosaic artist, sculptor, and author; and New York and Miami gallerist, Bernice Steinbaum, whose award-winning documentary representing the struggles of women and artists of color was screened during the SAMA Conference.

Goodwin was delighted with the entries. "This is exciting and invigorating for the mosaic world as a whole, since contemporary mosaic is still quite a new art form, but one that is becoming steadily established and recognized in Europe and now the United States."

Warner Hunter described the jury process. "There were multiple opportunities to view the images and to communicate with the other jurors. Opinions were expressed, viewpoints considered, and the resulting selections—this exhibition—were made."

Steinbaum, who served as a balance with a fresh point of view outside the closely knit mosaic art community, noted, "This juror selected the magic that worked for her. The scope of the entrants was challenging."

Contemporary Architectural and In Situ Mosaics

Mosaic Arts International 2016: Mosaic In Situ is a juried exhibit, also juried by Sherri Warner Hunter, of the best in contemporary architectural and in situ mosaics from the SAMA membership. This exhibition was presented through images featured in the 2016 MAI Catalog and in a dedicated image gallery on the SAMA website.

Warner Hunter commented: "I'm encouraged by the new format of this category. A commissioned mosaic is very different from a community-based mosaic, and they should be recognized separately. However, both still need to be held at high standards and need to effectively serve the *function* they were designed to accomplish."

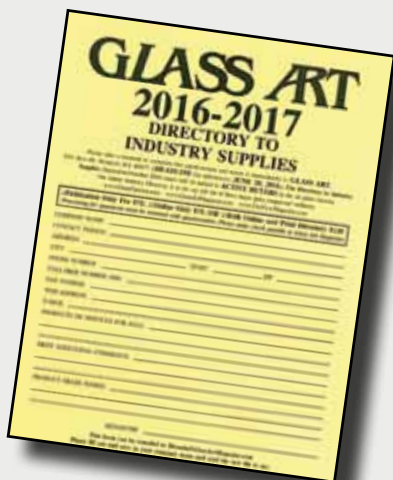
The Best Mosaic In Situ Project awarded to Benito Juarez Park by Jolina Bessara, group size 15' x 40', 2014. Located in Maywood, California, USA. Welded rebar skeletons, mesh and cement overcoat, ceramic and porcelain tile, vintage subway and Malibu tile mural scrap, glazed pottery, and dichroic glass.



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The 2016 Awards for Fine Art and In Situ Mosaics

- **Best in Show** in the Fine Arts category was awarded to Atsuko Laskaris for *Millennium* as the work receiving the highest collective marks from the jury through all rounds of review and was confirmed through joint discussion.

- The **Technical Achievement Award** presented to *Roiling* by Angela Sanders was selected by jury consensus and was awarded to the work that exemplified excellence in the methods, materials, and execution of traditional mosaic making.

- The **Contemporary Innovation Award** went to Erin Pankratz for *Defrag (Undone)* as the work that best encouraged experimentation and challenged the definition of mosaic art, and was selected by the jury consensus.

- **Juror's Choice Awards** were individually selected and awarded to works of significant achievement from the viewpoint of each juror. Selections by the jurors included:

Juror Elaine M. Goodwin: *Tectonic Shift, New World Order* by Cynthia Fisher.

Juror Bernice Steinbaum: *Judith's Revenge* by Lilian Broca.

Juror Sherri Warner Hunter: *Dialogue (The burden of the message)* by Julie Sperling.

- The **Best In Situ Project** was awarded to Jolino Bessera for *Benito Juarez Park* as work that exemplified excellence in design and installation methods while sustaining harmony and timelessness with the surrounding architecture and environment.

- The **Best Community Project** was awarded to Dawn Mendelson for *Broadway's Blooming* as work that exemplified excellence in design and installation methods, and was representative of the community and organization for whom and where it is installed.

- Members attending the conference also cast ballots for their favorite mosaic from the Fine Art Exhibit. The MAI 2016 **Members' Choice Award** was given to Mia Tavonatti for *Batyam*. **GA**



Technical Achievement Award for Roiling by Angela Sanders, 19-1/2" x 30", 2015. Smalti, antique gold, shells, onyx, marble, and benitoite.

The Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and promoting excellence in the mosaic arts. Founded in 1999, it is a vibrant and ever-expanding group of more than 900 members, including mosaic artists at all levels, mosaic aficionados, collectors, materials suppliers, and art educators. SAMA has put renewed emphasis on strengthening ties with other mosaic organizations around the globe to pursue common goals and on developing new programs relevant to its diverse membership. Visit www.americanmosaics.org for more information about the Society of American Mosaic Artists and its 2016 events.

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