

Mosaic Arts International 2017



The 16th 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. The 2017 exhibition, which ran from April 27 through June 15, was held in conjunction with SAMA's annual conference. This juried exhibit presents the best in contemporary fine art and site-specific mosaics from the organization's diverse international membership.

Fine Art Mosaics Exhibition

The selected works of the MAI Fine Art Exhibition 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.

Jurors Gary Drostle, Sergio DeGuisti, and Shug Jones recently shared their thoughts on the exhibit, the high quality of work that was submitted to MAI 2017, and the criteria they used when judging the entries.

"I mainly focused on the individual artist's voice and the feeling of a clear communication of the artist's intent. After this vital ingredient comes the technical accomplishment of the work—the use of composition, scale, and design. This is a collective representation of where the art of mosaic is at this moment in time."

Gary Drostle - London, U.K.

"It was a pleasure for me to select works that dealt with the traditional elements of mosaic art as well as new materials that reflect methods that are modern, yet hold onto the history of this great, ancient art form. This exhibition will give the public a wonderful opportunity to learn and see the creative contributions of artists in this very unique art form." *Sergio DeGiusti - Detroit, Michigan, U.S.*

"The body of work submitted was extremely well thought out, showed a depth of knowledge of mosaic art, and was executed with skill and an eye to communicating each artist's personal vision to the viewer. The selected art pushes the boundaries of the ancient language of mosaic, introducing contemporary issues, complexity of thought, and clarity of ideas. *Shug Jones - Garland, Texas, U.S.*

MAI 2017 Site-Specific Mosaics

Juror Susan Goldcer Goldberg, who selected the winners for the site-specific projects, recently described the entries received for this category. "Submissions covered a diverse mix of mosaic methodologies, materials, and innovative three-dimensional sculptures, as well as a strong community interface. The selections exemplified excellence in design and installation methods, as well as harmony and timelessness with the surrounding architecture and environment.

"*Temple City Today* displays Carole Choucair Oueijan's impressive technical proficiency and artistic expression in romantically depicting city history through diverse mosaic materials. My selection of the *Creekmouth Heritage Mosaic* was based on the success of the artist to engage the community, resulting in a project that poetically reflected and enhanced their identity, sense of pride, and heritage.

MAI 2017 Fine Arts and Site-Specific Awards Best in Show

Toyoharu Kii
Ritual Contact
Tokyo, Japan
marble
29" x 7" x 1"
2016

"Why white mosaic? By using only white marble, we can better see the character of the tesserae. Excluding color makes creating images more difficult, yet I love this process of making mosaic. If my work gives other mosaic artists any inspiration, I can assure myself that these attempts were worth it."





Technical Award / Contemporary Innovation

Scott Fitzwater
Diversity Gradient III
 Portland, Oregon
 slate, thinset,
 handmade substrate
 20-1/2" x 30" x 1"
 2017

"The diversity of species dramatically increases as one travels from the earth's poles (low diversity) to the equator (high diversity). In spite of an expansion of diversity, species' populations become smaller, more isolated. As a result, they are increasingly susceptible to rapid environmental fluctuations."



Juror's Choice / Gary Drostle

Toyoharu Kii
Abandoned Land
 Tokyo, Japan
 marble, crystal
 22" x 20" x 1"
 2016

"We need to destroy the land before making roads and buildings in order to live. After development is over, we abandon the land. It is no longer useful to us."

Technical Award / Technical Distinction

David Chidgey
Celebration
 San Antonio, Texas
 smalti, gold smalti,
 carved terra-cotta
 23" x 14-1/2" x 1-1/2"
 2016

"*Celebration* reflects a return to feeling alive and ready to celebrate life following the loss of our youngest daughter, Sarah. This is a tapestry of life reflecting healing, exploring new possibilities, renewing dreams, and celebrating life itself."



Juror's Choice / Sergio DeGiusti

Pauline Mills
Intersection
 Lubbock, Texas
 wood, metal, glass
 18" x 18" x 2"
 2015

"*Intersection* represents a conscious change in how I create mosaics—a shift away from representation. At a SAMA conference, Karen Ami told me to 'use my words.' I had received my challenge. I enjoy the juxtaposition of opposites—metal against wood, shiny next to dull, nature beside manufactured."





Juror's Choice / Shug Jones

Deb Englebaugh

Long-awaited

Mercer, Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania sandstone,
smalti, handmade,
bisque-fired clay, metal
18" x 18" x 1"
2017

"*Long-awaited* is a timepiece that represents recollections of significant moments. They are never shown as complete structures. Like mosaic, they represent parts of a larger whole. *Long-awaited* represents that point in time when a long-anticipated event occurs."



Best Site-Specific Mosaic

Carole Choucair Oueijan

Temple City Today

Site Location, Temple City, California
smalti, marble, granite, cristallino,
millefiori, iridescent tile, pebbles, glass
44" x 28" x 1" 2015

"This public art project consists of five mosaic murals constructed in the Byzantine Indirect Method and installed in separate panels along Rosemead Boulevard. The subjects include Eastern and Western cultural festivities, the first Winchell's Donuts House built in 1948, local well-known local business Pete & Jake's Hot Rod Parts, the popular central bandstand, the iconic San Gabriel Mountains and wild parrots, and the award winning Temple City schools."



Best Community Project

Tamara Froud

Creekmouth Heritage Mosaic

London, U.K.

Site Location in Barking, U.K.

glazed ceramic, glass, and printed tile, mirror
1.70 m x 6 m x 0.10 m 2015

"This mural was installed as part of the Creekmouth Heritage Project, which preserves 150 years of history in Barking, U.K., with the help of local residents, who were engaged in the collection of historic material. It depicts the successes and tragedies of the past, such as the 1878 Princess Alice Disaster on the Thames the development of war and passenger planes by Handley Page, and the construction of Creekmouth Village by the owner of the Lawes Chemical Factory to house his workers."

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