

Society of American Mosaic Artists

PO Box 624
Ligonier, PA 15658-0624
Phone: 724-259-7555
info@americanmosaics.org
www.AmericanMosaics.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2019

Contact: Dawnmarie Zimmerman

Dawnmarie@americanmosaics.org

724-259-7555

The 18th Annual Mosaic Arts International Exhibition Series (MAI), invigorates a new perspective of mosaic art in numerous contexts and celebrates established as well as emerging artists working in the medium today. The 58 selected works reflect the multiplicity of the mosaic medium and its endless applications. The series is comprised of separate juried exhibits featuring the best in contemporary fine art, architectural, community, & site-specific mosaics from SAMA's diverse international membership.

SAMA is honored to present this annual exhibition series in partnership with two of Nashville, Tennessee's iconic cultural institutions, the Parthenon Museum and the Nashville Public Library Art Gallery from January 26 – May 19, 2019.

Additional mosaic art exhibitions, gallery shows, and educational events are planned throughout Nashville this Spring culminating with the 18th Annual American Mosaic Summit, at the Sheraton Music City hotel, April 23 - 28, 2019.

The Mosaic Arts International: Fine Art Mosaic

The Parthenon Museum
2550 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 862-8431
Tuesday — Saturday: 9:00am — 4:30pm
Sunday: 12:30pm — 4:30pm
Closed Monday
www.Nashville.gov/Parks-and-Recreation/Parthenon.aspx

The Mosaic Arts International: Fine Art segment was juried by a distinguished panel including, Kim Emerson, Award Winning Public Artist and Founder of the San Diego Mosaic School, San Diego, California, USA; Toyoharu Kii, Internationally recognized Mosaic Artist and Educator, Tokyo, Japan; and Joseph S. Mella, Director of Vanderbilt University Fine Art Gallery, Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

The exhibition features the works of 39 artists from the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil and Greece, including: Lynn Adamo, Karen Ami, Margo Anton, Cherie Bosela, Kate Butler, Catherine Contogiorgi, Sue Coombs, Richard Davis, Karen Dimit, Mary Driver, Christopher Elam, Cynthia Fisher, Scott Fitzwater, Carolynn Friedman, Lenni Gilbert, Sandra Groeneveld, Yulia Hanansen, Kate Hanley, ETTY Hasak, Ahmed Ibrahim, Carolina Kawall, Kelley Knickerbocker, Lauren Leighton, Isabel Margolin, Julie Mazzoni, Pauline Mills, Eileen Palmer, Gila Rayberg, Cindy Robin, Angela Sanders, Monique Sarfity, Marian Shapiro, Julie Sperling, Pamela Stratton, Carrie Strobe, Mia Taponatti, Casey Van Loon, Meghan Walsh, and Anabella Wewer.

In addition to creating a collaborative selection of 39 works for the exhibition, the jurors were tasked to select several works to bestow SAMA's annual awards.

We are proud to present their selections here...

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2019 Best in Show

Mushin - 無心

Meghan Walsh, Washington, DC



2019 Technical Achievement Award

Vino Versato

Anabella Wewer, Macungie, PA



2019 Contemporary Innovation Award

Origin

Mia Tavonatti, Santa Ana, CA

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Kim Emerson Juror's Award

Going with the Floe, Margo Anton, St. Albert
Alberta, Canada



Toyoharu Kii Juror's Award:

Novel- Ties, Chapter X
Karen Ami, Chicago, IL



Joseph Mella Juror's Award

Remember Paris?
Kate Butler
Bungendore, Australia

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The Parthenon stands proudly as the centerpiece of Centennial Park, Nashville's premier urban park. The re-creation of the 42-foot statue Athena is the focus of the Parthenon just as it was in ancient Greece. The building and the Athena statue are both full-scale replicas of the Athenian originals. Mosaic Arts International: Fine Art Mosaic is presented in the Parthenon Museum's East Gallery.

The One Hundred Mosaics Project, Season Two

SAMA is also presenting a member project in the Parthenon's West Gallery concurrent with MAI. The ***One Hundred Moments in Mosaic*** project is a non-juried collection of work representing the full spectrum of SAMA's diverse and richly creative membership. For a second season, an open call was issued to members to create a 6" x 6" mosaic, using materials of their choice and an original design.

The work of seasoned professionals is displayed here alongside enthusiastic newcomers to the mosaic making process, culminating in 100+ moments of life rendered in mosaic by artists from all over the world.

The Mosaic Arts International: Architectural & Site-Specific Mosaic

The Nashville Public Library
615 Church St.
Nashville, TN 37219
Monday — Friday: 9:00am — 6:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am — 5:00pm
Sunday: 2:00pm — 5:00pm
Library.Nashville.org

The Mosaic Arts International: Architectural & Site-Specific segment is a juried exhibit of the best in contemporary architectural and in-situ mosaics from SAMA's diverse international membership. This segment was juried by Kim Emerson, Award Winning Public Artist and Founder of the San Diego Mosaic School, San Diego, California, USA. The 19 installations selected will be represented at the Nashville Public Library Art Gallery through print and digital images, video, and a collection of ephemera provided by the artists. Materials on display include drawings, sketchbooks, materials samples and tools that give visitors a unique perspective into the process of creating a large-scale mosaic work.

Ms. Emerson in her juror's statement noted that "Public art is not for the light-hearted. Mosaics as public art is even more difficult because it is so time-consuming, thus more costly, and sometimes a real challenge to convince any client that it is a good investment.... I am truly humbled and inspired by the artists and their vision. May these artists and their projects stand as a true testimonial to the importance and purpose that mosaics have as a major contribution to our built environment and overall sense of being."

The exhibition features the works of 19 artists from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Brazil, including: Marc Archambault, Carole Choucair Oueijan, Bonnie Cohen, Kathleen Crocetti, Gary Drostle, Barbara Dybala, Cynthia Fisher, Bonnie Fitzgerald, Eileen Gay, Yulia Hanansen, Sherri Warner Hunter, Gertrud Müller, Jairo & Susan Prado, Deb Englebaugh & Rachel Sager, Rochelle Schueler, Marian Shapiro, Mia Tavonatti, Anabella Wewer, Joshua Winer.

Awards selected for the Architectural & Site-Specific segment are as follows...

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2019 Best Architectural
Baptismal Font and Pool
Mia Tavonatti, Santa Ana, CA



2019 Best Community Project
Celebrating the Diversity of Labor
Kathleen Crocetti, Watsonville, CA



Kim Emerson's Juror's Choice
Talking Trees
Eileen Gay, Sparks, NV

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The Nashville Public Library's Art Gallery at the Main Library presents exhibitions that promote access to and stimulate interest in a wide variety of ideas. The gallery is open during the library's regular hours. Admission to the gallery is free and the public is welcome to all events. Funding for the Art Gallery made possible by generous gifts to the Nashville Public Library Foundation.

About SAMA

The Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and promoting excellence in the mosaic arts.

SAMA was founded in 1999 by a small group of mosaic artists who wanted a venue through which they could share their knowledge, expertise, and interest in mosaic art—this most ancient of art forms that was experiencing a significant contemporary revival.

Today, nearly 20 years later, we remain 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.

Contact Dawnmarie Zimmerman for images:

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