



**SAMA** Society of American  
Mosaic Artists

## Mosaic Arts International 2025

*TIMELESS MOSAICS*

**Fine Art & Site-Specific Mosaic Art**

**SAMA's Annual International Juried Exhibition**

Presented at

Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, Polasek Gallery, Winter Park, Florida

August 26 – December 7, 2025

The Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) invites artists working in mosaic media to submit applications to ***Mosaic Arts International (MAI) 2025: Fine Art & Site-Specific Mosaic***. Held in conjunction with SAMA's annual conference, the juried exhibit presents the best in contemporary fine art mosaics from SAMA's diverse international membership. Fine Art is a segment of the Mosaic Arts International 2025 exhibition series that will be presented at **Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, Polasek Gallery, Winter Park, Florida: August 26 – December 7, 2025**.

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, founded in 1961, houses a collection focusing on American representational sculpture, prominently featuring Polasek's creations. The museum is one of only 55 members listed on the National Trust's Historic Artists' Homes and Studios. This unique destination offers guided tours of the historic Polasek residence and chapel, an outdoor sculpture garden, rotating exhibits, and a gift shop.

The 2025 Conference—***The American Mosaic Summit***—will be held at the **Hilton Orlando Hotel**, Orlando Florida, **October 30 – November 1, 2025**.

The **Mosaic Arts International** exhibition series invigorates a new perspective of mosaic art in numerous contexts, and celebrates established, as well as emerging artists working in the medium today. All segments combined represent a total of between 35 – 60 artists. **The Society of American Mosaic Artists is celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> year** as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and promoting excellence in mosaic arts.

### Calendar

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| May 14, 2025                 | Digital Submission period <b>opens</b>   |
| July 7, 2025                 | Digital Submission Deadline (\$20 entry fee per work)  |
| July 21, 2025                | Notification of selection e-mailed   |
| August 18-21, 2025           | Work must be received in Winter Park, FL, including hand-delivered and shipped               |
| August 26 – December 7, 2025 | Polasek Gallery Exhibition, (works must remain in exhibit for the entire length of the show) |
| October 30, 2025             | SAMA Conference Artist Reception at Polasek Gallery  |
| December 10, 2025            | All work to be returned or shipped by this date  |

### Selection Process

The choices of the selected entries are solely decided by the jurors. SAMA Board Members and/or Staff facilitate the administrative aspects of the jury process and in no way influence the outcomes. The decisions of the jurors are final.

### Jurors (alphabetically)

**Tamie Diener-Lafferty** has served as the Curator of the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens since 2022 where she organizes four art exhibitions each year including the Winter Park Paint Out, a fundraising plein air event. As part of the juror panel, she contributes to the selection of approximately twenty-four distinguished artists for this event. Additionally, she brings over 20 years of experience as a Curator with Walt Disney Imagineering, where she developed exhibits for Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

**Ahmed Ibrahim**, a mosaic artist since 2000 and winner of the 14th International Mosaic Meeting in Chartres, France, is renowned for his belief in pushing beyond comfort zones to achieve artistic growth. Ahmed contributed to large-scale mosaic projects with the Sabry Mansour team, including murals at Ahran Canadian University and Helwan University in Cairo. His mosaics are showcased in public spaces across the Greater Chicagoland area. As a dedicated Mosaic Teaching Artist, Ahmed currently teaches at the Hyde Park Art Center and has previously instructed at The Chicago Mosaic School, The Art Center Highland Park, and The Stirling Hall Art Center. His work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally. Ahmed holds a Bachelor's degree in Mural Arts from Helwan University in Cairo, Egypt.

## Awards - Totaling \$ 2,400

**Best in Show - \$1,000:** work receiving highest collective marks from Jury through all rounds of review.

**Technical Distinction - \$350:** work that exemplifies excellence in the methods, materials, and execution of traditional mosaic-making. Selected by the jury consensus.

**Contemporary Innovation - \$350:** work that best encourages experimentation and challenges the definition of mosaic art. Selected by the jury consensus.

**Best Site-Specific Project - \$350:** work that exemplifies excellence in design and installation methods. Sustaining harmony and timelessness with the surrounding architecture and environment.

**Best Community Project - \$350:** work that exemplifies excellence in design and installation methods. Representative of the community and organization for whom and where it is installed.

## Eligibility

Open to all current SAMA members, age 18 and over. Applications will not be accepted by SAMA until membership status is verified. (Dues may be paid on the SAMA Website at [americanmosaics.org](http://americanmosaics.org)) Only one accepted work per artist will be exhibited in the Fine Art segment of the Exhibition unless multiple works by one artist is deemed necessary to the overall exhibition by the jury. Artists may also submit works to the Site-Specific Mosaic segment and could potentially have work accepted to each of the MAI juried segments for 2025. In the instance that a submitted mosaic is a collaboration, ALL collaborators must be current members at the time of entry for the work to qualify.

Submitted artwork must be the artist's original design, completed within the past three and one-half years (January 2022 through July 2025), and not previously exhibited in a SAMA exhibition. If an entry was created in a recognizable style or influence of another artist, at the time of submitting your entry, please identify this fact and that your influence was from another artist who is known, unknown, contemporary, or deceased. Art center or school open studio time projects will be accepted. Reproductions of ancient mosaics ARE NOT permitted. No reproductions of "copy-free" or copyrighted material (even with permission) allowed unless it is copyrighted by the submitting artist. No work executed during an educational experience such as a technical workshop, master course, or directed study may be submitted. Obvious copyright infringement will result in the removal of all work for consideration prior to jurying.

## Entry Requirements

Each artist may enter up to three (3) original works per segment for a total maximum of six (6) entries. Entry Fee is \$20 per work.

### Fine Art Entry Requirements:

Entries consist of one (1) primary image (this image is to include framing and any presentation elements that are integral to the presentation of the work) and up to three (3) detail images for each entry for a maximum of four (4) images per entry/per artwork.

#### Fine Art Segment Category Definitions

**Wall Mosaics** - Mosaics that are mounted to a vertical flat surface and are two-dimensional panels, bas-relief panels, or wall sculptures.

**Free-Standing Mosaics** - Mosaics that are sculptural or three-dimensional in a form that stands by themselves, on a pedestal, or floor surface.

#### Weight and size limits

- Wall Mosaics - 100 lbs. and no wider than 50 inches total (including spacing between multi-sectional work).
- Free-Standing works placed on a pedestal - 100 lbs. No size limit.
- Free-Standing work on the floor - 150 lbs. No size limit.

If a work is selected for the exhibition and is within the weight and size limitations, it MUST be shipped or hand-delivered to the gallery to be placed on display.

**For each Fine Art Segment entry/artwork, you will need:** Title, 300-word Artist Statement on the work, Height, Width, Weight, Year Created, Total Sales Price (or Not-for-Sale), Segment and Subcategory Designation (i.e. Fine Art- Freestanding) and a brief listing of materials. Be precise in the description of materials but omit brand names (ie: "glass" is insufficient and "Orsoni Smalti" is inappropriate, etc.) A term such as "mixed media" is also insufficient without some description of the most important materials included. Description of the substrate or



fabrication method is not required. SAMA reserves the right to edit all lists of materials and dimensions to a common standard for labels and catalog text.

**Artist Statements** for each work will be used for exhibition and publication purposes. All final statements of work accepted to MAI may be edited for publication and presentation consistency by SAMA and will not exceed 300 words. For more information on appropriate content for your artist statement, please do your own research. There are several great tutorials, worksheets, questionnaires, and samples available on the internet.

Artwork should be sturdy and ready for hanging or installation at the time of delivery.

- No sawtooth hangers.
- No pressed wood frames.
- The hanging wire and frame grommets must be well-secured and the frame, hanging wire, and grommets must be weight-appropriate to hang the artwork.

The SAMA Exhibition Committee reserves the right to decline hanging/staging an entry if the guidelines are not followed and will return the entry at the artist's expense prior to the opening of the exhibit.

## Site-Specific Mosaic Entry Requirements:

Entries consist of one (1) primary image (this image is to include framing and any presentation elements that are integral to the presentation of the work) and up to three (3) detail images for each entry **for a maximum of four (4) images per entry/per artwork.**

### Site-Specific Mosaic Definition

Work that is permanently affixed to its intended environment. Public / Private Commissions, Community Projects, Large-scale Sculpture, and Surface Design

**For each Site-Specific entry/artwork, you will need:** Title, 300-word Artist Statement on the work, Height, Width, Weight, Year Created, Installation Location (including city, state, and country) and a brief listing of materials. Be precise in the description of materials but omit brand names (ie: "glass" is insufficient and "Orsoni Smalti" is inappropriate, etc.) A term such as "mixed media" is also insufficient without some description of the most important materials included. Description of the substrate or fabrication method is not required. SAMA reserves the right to edit all lists of materials and dimensions to a common standard for labels and catalog text. The Artist Statement of the work and its setting should address the environment the work was created for and purpose or commissioning body directives toward design and fabrication.

Artist Statements for each work will be used for exhibition and publication purposes. All final statements of work accepted to MAI may be edited for publication and presentation consistency by SAMA and will not exceed 300 words. For more information on appropriate content for your artist statement, please do your own research. There are several great tutorials, worksheets, questionnaires, and samples available on the internet.

## Image Guidelines

The jury process will take place by digital image review via CaFÉ([callforentry.org](http://callforentry.org)). Slides are not accepted.

- Please label each image with the work's title. In the description box, explain the view, angle or perspective this image is viewing the work, i.e. full view, detail, left side, right side, back, etc.
- All submitted images shall be formatted in the following file size and resolution as a jpg per CaFÉ guidelines:
  - Images must be sized at 1200 px (on the long side of the image) and no larger than 5mg per file.
- CaFÉ requirements are lower than the quality image we will need for the catalog or submission for print publications. Reserve your primary image as the best overall image that you want to have printed in the catalog per our request.
- If there is a frame around your finished mosaic, you **MUST** include it in your image submission.
- Digitally altered images may be disqualified.
- Images should be accurate representations of the work.
- Images **WILL NOT** be reviewed if all guidelines are not followed.
- SAMA reserves the right to pull a work from the exhibition if it arrives for installation and does not match the image submitted for the jury process.
- SAMA reserves the right to not include a work in the catalog if the submitted image does not meet the specifications for print quality.

Important: the quality of photography contributes greatly to the clarity, sharpness, color, lighting, and understanding of your artwork which assists the jurors in their decision-making process and offers the highest-quality photograph for printing purposes.

## Digital Submission

All submissions to the Juried Members Exhibition are required to be entered via digital submission through CaFÉ([callforentry.org](http://callforentry.org)). If you are not already registered with CaFÉ, you will need to register prior to submitting your application. If you experience difficulties submitting your entry at CaFÉ.com, please contact [mai@americanmosaics.org](mailto:mai@americanmosaics.org). **Incomplete applications submitted will be deemed ineligible.**

**EACH ARTWORK will require a SEPARATE ENTRY APPLICATION (\$20 per entry/per artwork). We will accept up to three (3) Fine Art entries and three (3) Site-Specific entries per artist for a maximum of six (6) entries.**

**Important Tip:** Please prepare all text in advance of working on your application so you can have it readily accessible to enter the system.

When you complete your digital application at [callforentry.org](http://callforentry.org) please pay the entry fee as directed. Payment must be made with debit or credit card. The entry fee is nonrefundable.

## Digital Application Checklist

Please have the following ready before going to [callforentry.org](http://callforentry.org). The process is estimated to take 30 minutes for 3 entries.

- Digital images for a maximum of 6 works, one full view and one - three details for each artwork entered.
- For each work, you will need: Title, 300-word Artist Statement, Height, Width, Weight, Year Created, Total Sales Price, Category Designation (Wall, Free-Standing, or Site-Specific), and a brief listing of materials. For Site-Specific Works, we will ask for installation location and collaborators.
- Debit or Credit Card information.
- Current SAMA membership.

## Selected Works Terms and Conditions

**Note that artists whose work is selected to MAI 2025 must maintain their membership status to SAMA through March 2026.**

Images of selected works will be retained for the SAMA Library. Submission indicates granting of rights to SAMA to reproduce work in a print catalog, publicity poster, on the SAMA website, and in additional publications and websites for publicity purposes. The Polasek Gallery will also use images for publicity and marketing. The printed catalog will be sold for SAMA fundraising purposes as well as used for marketing of SAMA. Artists retain all copyrights to their individual works. Photography will be allowed in the Polasek Gallery.

Selected work received that differs from the submitted images, will be excluded from the display. No substitutions of accepted work will be allowed.

The SAMA Exhibition Committee reserves the right to decline hanging/staging a selected work if the guidelines are not followed and will return the work at the artist's expense prior to the opening of the exhibit.

***If it is proven that eligibility requirements and submission guidelines have not been adhered to after a work has been selected by the jury, the work will be omitted from the exhibition and the member will not be eligible to enter work for consideration in future MAI exhibitions for five (5) years.***

Artists who decline to exhibit selected work will be ineligible to enter SAMA shows for five (5) years.

## Insurance & Liability

Indicate the fair-market insurance value on work that is indicated as not-for-sale (NFS). Artists are to secure their own insurance for transit to offsite shipping and holding address. SAMA will assume responsibility for transporting work between shipping address and the gallery. Artwork must be in good condition and able to withstand the ordinary strains of transportation. Artists will be notified of any work that arrives in damaged condition to determine insurance claim needs. The SAMA Exhibition Committee and the Polasek Gallery reserve the right to decline hanging/staging an entry if the artwork is received in a damaged condition and will return the entry at the artist's expense prior to the opening of the exhibit. SAMA and the gallery will provide insurance on all works while on exhibition.

## Sales Price for Fine Art Segment – Updated for 2025

Set your total sales price to include a commission of 40%. Work will be sold at the price entered on the online submission form. All work must have a sale price that includes the 40% commission or, if not-for-sale, a fair market value for insurance must be indicated. Money received from any sales will be split with 40% for Polasek Gallery, and 60% for the artist. The artist's share will be issued to the artist within 30 days of the sale of the work. Work that is sold will remain on display through the conclusion of the exhibition.



## Additional Media for Site-Specific Segment

You will have the opportunity to submit an additional set of 4 to 6 images sized at 1024 ppi-pixels per inch (on the long side of the image) by August 1, 2025 to be exhibited digitally as a slide presentation next to your printed image. Video without sound will also be accepted in mp4 format and no longer than 15 minutes in length.

### Additional Ephemera for Gallery Display:

Maquettes, prints of the pre-construction images or blueprints you provided in application, left-over tesserae or materials and other inspirational elements may be requested by the Exhibitions Committee in the curation of the Mosaic Arts International 2025 presentation of the Site-Specific segment to enhance the representation of your work. More information will be available upon notice of acceptance.

## Shipping

The work and ephemera **MUST** be received by the dates specified.

Shipping instructions and identification sheet will be included with notification of acceptance. Artists are responsible for:

- Paying shipping costs via trackable mail (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.) to the exhibition staging site; Address to be forwarded upon acceptance.
- Checking with the chosen carrier regarding insurance and correct packing procedures and customs documentation for international shipments
- Ensuring that work is shipped in a substantial, reusable shipping container that meets shipping standards with proper protective cushioning and support for the artwork installed inside the container
- Ensuring that hanging hardware is installed on the work prior to shipping and include any relevant instructions for hanging and repacking.

### **ABSOLUTELY NO FOAM POPCORN OR SHREDDED MATERIALS PACKAGING.**

Artists will be notified of work that arrives in a damaged condition. The SAMA Exhibition Committee reserves the right to decline hanging/staging an entry if the guidelines are not followed and will return the entry at the artist's expense prior to the opening of the exhibit.

### Return Shipping:

Shipping of artwork back to the artist after the exhibit is at the artist's expense.

- Unsold work will be return shipped to artists by December 10, 2025.
- **The artist MUST provide a return 'Shipping Label' barcode sticker that is prepaid for the return destination and can be scanned by the return expeditor. SAMA will work with Artists outside the US to arrange for return shipping when a pre-paid label is not possible with the shipper in their country. SAMA will charge additional handling fees on a case-by-case basis in circumstances where prepaid returns by artists are not possible. Work that is not able to be shipped or picked up within three days after the close of the exhibition, becomes the property of SAMA.**
- Work will only be returned to a street address. NO POST OFFICE BOX NUMBERS will be accepted for shipping.
- Neither SAMA nor the gallery will be responsible for breakage due to incorrect packing or an insufficient container when returning artwork as it was originally shipped.

*Entry into the exhibition confirms acceptance of all conditions above. Please read all conditions in detail.*