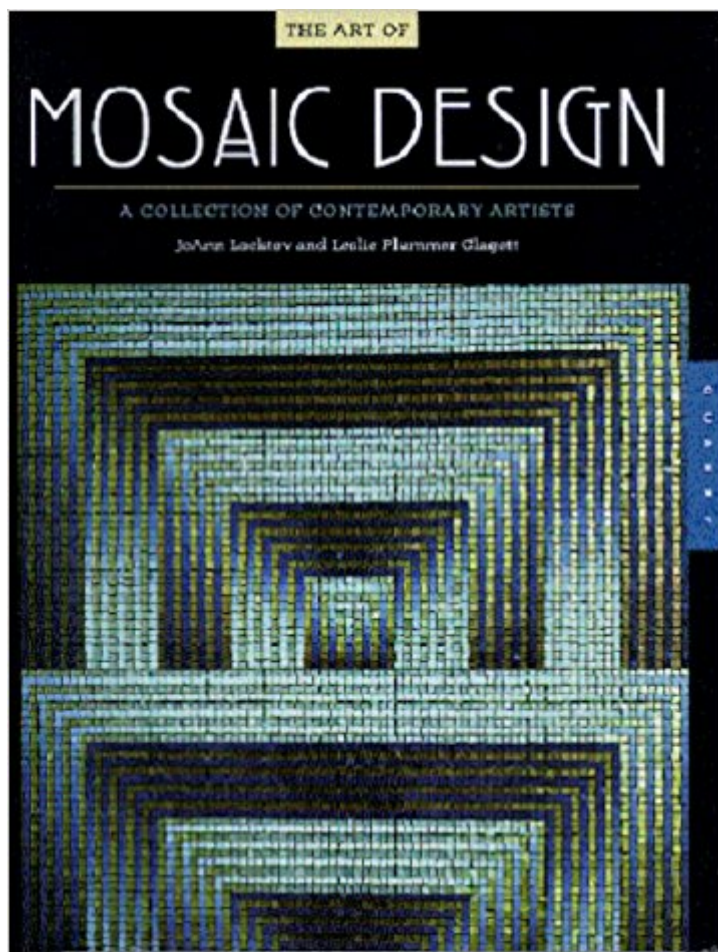


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# The Art Of Mosaic Design: A Collection Of Contemporary Artists



## Synopsis

Fragments of glass, stone, and clay are pieced together in the mosaic art form to create intricate patterns within a unified whole. Functional or decorative, abstract or pictorial, mosaics can be naive in their simplicity or designs of polished sophistication. Once again, this ancient craft is in vogue. This time, mosaic artists are firmly grasping the wheel of its centuries-old techniques, and changing course toward modern aesthetic standards. "The Art of Mosaic Design" gathers some of the best contemporary works into a striking gallery of images, ideas, and information. Colorful photographs accompanied by enlightening text dramatically document the work of 42 international artists. Much more than a beautiful picture book. "The Art of Mosaic Design" is a comprehensive study of this unique art form now poised for resurgence.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Quarry Books (November 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1564964205

ISBN-13: 978-1564964205

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.6 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #787,791 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Mosaic #37 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Mosaics #197 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics

## Customer Reviews

Contemporary mosaic art has an almost limitless variety of style and form, ranging from flat surfaces to three-dimensional objects. This album displays the work of 45 international artists with brief descriptions of their lives and artistic philosophies. As a source of ideas, it is similar to Martin Cheek's *Mosaics Design Sourcebook* (LJ 10/15/98), with a broader range of styles and motifs. There are no projects, but the mosaic works are beautifully photographed with detailed close-ups as well as views of entire pieces, many of which are outdoors or are architectural features in buildings. Recommended for arts and crafts collections. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Glass mosaicists take note and check out this book. Authors Locktov and Clagett have put together

an impressive portfolio of artists working with mosaics in glass, ceramic, stone, and mixed media. Despite the varied materials, the section of "Mosaic Design" devoted to glass and mixed media mosaics is so rich in inspiring works, it will drive home even further the notion that the resurgence of mosaics is the most exciting thing happening in flat glass today. The group of glass artist featured includes Erin Adams (whose work is featured on page 6 in this issue), Ellen Blakely, whose preferred medium is shattered safety glass salvaged from vandalized bus shelters and store windows, Felice Nittolo of Ravenna, Italy, who works in Byzantine styled mosaics, Lucio Orsoni of the Orsoni factory who specializes in the use of smalti (small, glass mosaic elements) and Diana Maria Rossi, whose highly faceted surfaces have a strong emotional impact. The artists whose works employ other media offer plenty in the way of inspiration, making, this handsome volume a valuable resource for today's mosaic movement. -- Glass Craftsman Magazine, December 1998

The artworks included in the book are a bit eccentric but if that is your style, then the book is OK.

This book is a small vacation in itself-peaceful and highly varied beauty in design and color. I did miss a Spanish artist's work I was hoping to see. Susan Beck

Shows various methods of mosaics I never thought of before, very helpful for the beginner as well the advanced mosaicist. I really enjoyed reading it.

This is an interesting, inspiring and beautifully presented book of work from mosaic artists around the world. There is so much variety in terms of style, technique, materials, and colour, and I very much like the fact that there are many photos of works in their entirety as well as pieces showing closeups of the same work in detail. There are generally between four and six pages for each artist, showcasing their work and talking a little bit about their artistic background, their technique used for certain pieces and their inspirations, all of which I found fascinating and brought me to a greater understanding of how the piece was created. I admit that not everything in the book is to my own personal tastes: my preferences lean towards the more colourful. Among my favourite mosaicists in this collection are Erin Adams, whose compositions are based on intricately patterned oriental rugs; Gary Stephens, whose weird and wonderful designs feature brightly coloured fruit, fish, frogs, and ukelele-playing mermen (!); Linda Beaumont, especially for the assortment of objects she incorporates into mosaics; and Candace Bahouth, who I feel has a great eye for colour and shape. Nonetheless, there is a lot of creativity and enthusiasm evident in all the work in the book, whatever

your tastes. It also has possibly the best introduction I have ever read in a book about mosaic:

"Mosaic design is a fascinating art based on paradoxes that must be embraced. Among these are the pieces, multiple objects of simplicity fused into a singular, complex wholeness; the irregularity that springs from deliberation; and, more often than not, the creation that is wrought from destruction. Such paradoxes are put into context by the mosaicist when the principles of other visual arts are applied. By shaping tesserae like a sculptor, choosing colors like a painter, and weaving patterns like a fiber artist, the mosaicist presents his or her vision." What a wonderful way to introduce what mosaic is all about! I also feel that there is just the right balance between text and photographs - enough to enhance understanding, but not so much as to detract from the art itself. I recommend this book to all lovers of art, not just of mosaic.

Authors Joann Locktov and Leslie Plummer Clagett praise the multi-talented mosaic-maker. Mosaic-makers color like painters, shape tesserae like sculptors, and weave like fiber artists. They go way back, to ancient Chinese pebbled streets. About 2,500 years ago, mosaic-making reached Europe and the Mediterranean area. There, mosaic-makers cut rocks into small, regular pieces, known as tesserae. Mosaics then worked in wall and ceiling murals. In the 20th century, artists pioneered using ceramics, glass and rock in mixed-media mosaics. Glass had been used for about 2,200 years. It was easier to cut down than stone, into much smaller pieces. Many different colors of many small pieces gave spectacular lighting. For 1,400-1,500 years, Ravenna, Italy has been the place for traditional mosaics, for churches. Nowadays, alternative designs and uses crop up. For example, Ellen Blakeley makes household items, mirrors, picture frames and tabletops, from the shattered safety glass of vandalized bus shelters and store windows. Such thick pieces often break inside. This gives stunning lighting and looks. Austrian painter Gustav Klimt, with murals, and Catalan architect Antonio Gaudi, with buildings, set the standards for today's ceramic mosaic-makers. Gary Stephens joins them, with his sculptures made from colorful pottery and tile pieces. He grew up in an Arizona border town. He then went on to travel. So he brings together the simple directness of Mexican folk artists, with the brassy busyness of Thai mosaic-makers. Thailand, with its temples, is also one of the countries where stone mosaic-makers are rightly proud of their works nowadays. Another is Portugal, with its pathways. Both influence Linda Beaumont's mosaic columns, floors, fountains and pavements. One mixed-media mosaic-maker is Raymond Isidore. It took him almost 25 years to cover the outside of his house with thrown-out crockery and dishware pieces. His mosaic-making style is called pique assiette, or stolen from plates. So THE ART OF MOSAIC DESIGN packs beautiful illustrations and clear wording into just the right space. Along the

way, I picked up another favorite art style in Ilana Shafir's stained glass and mosaic. She mixes traditional and unexpected materials, such as seashells and natural stones. Her works beautifully catch light and move viewers skywards, as in her window for the Netzach Israel synagogue in Ashkelon.

Breathtakingly inspirational ... it really is an artform and here it is taken very seriously. The book covers a wide range of contemporary styles which are all unique and fascinating in their own way. A must for any budding mosaicist.

The Art Of Mosaic Design: A Collection Of Contemporary Artists by JoAnn Loctove and Leslie Plummer Clagett is a stunningly impressive, full-color artbook filled with photographs of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional mosaic works by forty-two bright, talented, and inspirational modern artists drawn from the U.S., Italy, England, Norway, France, Israel, and Japan. Amazing arrays of color, design, theme, and texture abound in this vibrant modern artbook make The Art Of Mosaic Design strongly recommended addition to any personal or art school reference library collection.

Are you tired of the usual instructional, how-to book on simplistic, hobby-style mosaic art? Are you looking for a book on quality mosaic art that will captivate and inspire you? Well, this book is like visiting an art gallery totally devoted to exceptional mosaic art. It is especially good for the experienced mosaic artist as it is filled with inspirational and diverse mosaic masterpieces. If you have ever wanted a book on mosaics that passes on the instruction, but thoroughly inspires you with unbounded creativity, this is the book for you!

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