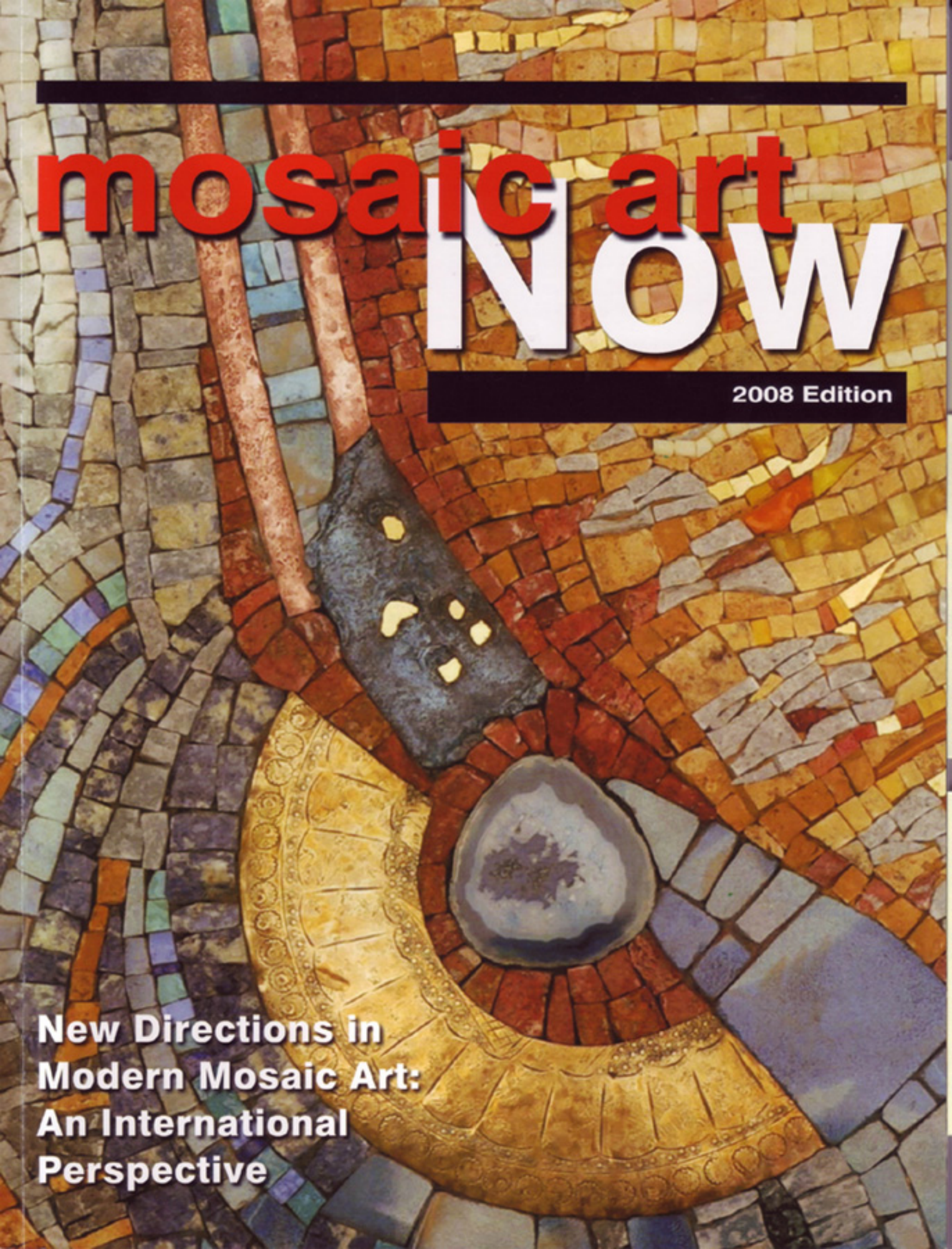

# mosaic art Now

2008 Edition

## New Directions in Modern Mosaic Art: An International Perspective

# Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of **Mosaic Art Now** - an annual magazine devoted to celebrating and showcasing new directions and perspectives in modern mosaic art.

Yes, mosaic has roots going back to ancient Rome and Greece. Yes, up until modern times the overwhelming majority of mosaics were relegated to floor installations or church iconography. And yes ... mosaic was that project given to many of us by camp counselors and grade school teachers as a way to get us to settle down and keep quiet.

But in the last few decades, more and more serious artists have turned to mosaic as a modern medium for creative expression. Why? Perhaps it's the lure of working with interesting materials: glass, stone, ceramic, found objects. Perhaps it's the challenge of arranging different shapes, textures, and colors into new and innovative patterns. Perhaps it's the enigma: each piece, insignificant by itself, is placed in a context where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Or perhaps, it's the sport. My friend Margaret Ryan says, "Mosaic is one of the few art forms which requires the artist to physically touch and shape each piece in a way which puts our bodies as well as our minds and souls into the creative process."

Whatever the reason, many artists - those in this publication and others throughout the world - are mastering the technical challenges of mosaic and are pushing the art form in directions which the Romans and Greeks never would have imagined. Yes, mosaic can still be found on floors and religious iconography - as you will see in this publication. But it is also found today in fine art wall hangings, abstract sculptures, decorative pieces, and public art - which you will also see in these pages.

**The 2008 Mosaic Gallery: An International Mosaic Review**

This magazine presents some of the best work from today's mosaic artists as a way to inspire you to take a closer look at the extraordinary diversity of this art form. For art lovers and collectors, the mosaics in the 2008 Gallery (pages 20-58) will inspire you to take a fresh look at this art form and consider adding mosaic to your home or business art collection. For artists and students of the fine arts, these mosaics will prompt you to take classes and experiment with mosaic as a medium for creative expression. For current mosaic artists, this collection will motivate you to take your own art in new and greater directions.

Each year hundreds of mosaic artists from all parts of the world share their latest creations through the **Mosaic Yearbook** project. It is now in its third year. The latest edition, published on CD-ROM, has over 1100 photos of mosaics from 615 artist representing 33 nations and territories. Quite an impressive collection.

Mosaic Yearbook Project: www.MosaicYearbook.com

**Mosaic Art Now** is an extension of the Yearbook project as a way to showcase some of the finest artists and mosaics included in the Yearbook. To accomplish this, I asked six prominent artists from different parts of the globe to select 25 of their favorite pieces for inclusion in these pages. I selected these reviewers not only for their unique perspectives on mosaic art but also for their contributions to the mosaic community.

**Gary Drostle** (United Kingdom - Europe) has an extraordinary talent in synthesizing the classical traditions of mosaic art with modern forms of expression. His public art can be seen throughout the UK and Ireland. He is currently the president of the British Association for Modern Mosaic.

**Natsu Kaji** (Japan - Aisa) understands and embodies the transcendental experience of creating mosaic. Her work comes from the heart. In the real world, she is a voice for mosaic art in Japan, has published numerous works about mosaic, and is the supervising director of a mosaic supply business.

**Con Kiernan** (New Zealand - Australasia and the Pacific Islands) has the unique talent of capturing a world which many of us can only imagine. Sometimes it takes an artist to help us see, and Con is one of them. His bold designs and colors capture the essence of the world around him. If I ever get the chance to visit New Zealand, I'm sure I will see it through the prism of Con's imagination.

**Sonia King** (United States - North America) is an evangelist extraordinaire for mosaic art through her art, teaching, and publications. Sonia's mosaics give us a glimpse into her fertile imagination where precision and balance collide with obscurity and chaos. She is one of the founding members and past president of the Society of American Mosaic Artists.

**Cristina Sobreira** (Brazil - South America) understands and embraces the relationship between artistic expression and the environment. Her work is abstract using natural materials, primarily gemstones and minerals from her native Brazil. I confess I have a fondness for abstract mosaic art using stone, and Cristina's work delights me.

**Karin Wainwright** (Cape Town - Africa) is an artistic force you don't want to be in the way of. Her work is both bold and courageous demonstrating her fearless approach to her subject matter. If you don't believe me, look at her mosaic called **The Look** on page 17. She is the director of the Mosaic Workshop in Cape Town which produces public and private mosaic installations as well as fine art pieces.

Enough of my observations. These artists will introduce themselves to you on the next few pages and provide an insight into the criteria they used to select the mosaics for inclusion in the 2008 Gallery starting on page 20.

These reviewers worked independently. They saw only the photos of the mosaics and did not have access to artist names or locations. The only stipulation was that a reviewer could not select his or her own mosaic or a mosaic created by family members. The reviewers did not know who the others were, and, as it turned out, a few of them selected mosaics created by other reviewers. As you can see, the mosaics selected for this year's gallery represent a cross section of styles, forms (from floors to fine art), and materials.

**The Stars**

The mosaics are presented in alphabetical order by the artist's last name. At the end of the credits for each mosaic you will notice a star or set of stars.

★★★

Each star represents a vote from one of the reviewers.

A red star indicates that the mosaic was a reviewer's number one selection.

A gold star indicates that the mosaic was in a reviewer's top ten list.

**Our Sponsors**

We are thrilled to receive the advertising support of so many business and artists from the global mosaic community. If you are looking to purchase mosaic art or want to find someone to do a custom installation, please contact the artists who have advertised with us or the artists whose works are presented in the gallery. An index of contacts can be found on pages 59-60. If you are a mosaic artist or interested in becoming one, please support the mosaic supply businesses and educational/professional organizations who have advertised with us.

Mosaic is all around us in public and private spaces. Look for it and see how it enriches our lives.

- Bill Buckingham

Julie Richey **Mosaics**

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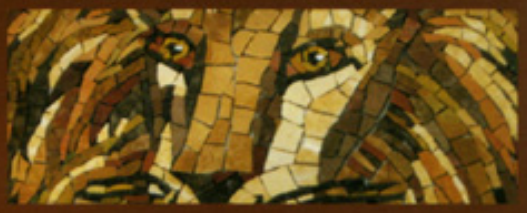

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*Top* Virginia Gardner (United States).
***Eternal Attraction.*** 24 h x 24 w inches. China, glazed ceramic, mother of pearl, and tumbled avertine, amazonite, and marble. ★

*Bottom* Steve Glynn (United Kingdom).
***Big Bass from The Cornish Coast.*** 38 h x 110 w x 15 d centimeters. Exterior plywood, paper pulp, stained glass and mirror. ★