
LILLIAN SIZEMORE

MOSAIC RESEARCHER AND SUBJECT EXPERT

Why Your Mosaic is Important

Preserving a legacy for the art and craft of mid-20th century mosaic*¹, a predominant form of expression of the era, gives us a more grounded historic perspective on our recent cultural past as it spans from high-end architectural works to amateur hobby projects.

Looking closely at midcentury mosaic work adds a significant contribution to the field of art history. Mosaic can fall through the cracks, lack 'categorization' and is often overlooked or misunderstood within the history of modern and contemporary art. I have the skills and background to provide evaluations, and perhaps more importantly, provide a broader connection and context– the "mosaic DNA" as I call it – to expand the knowledge and understanding of mosaic holdings for the collector, connoisseur, curator, educator, historic preservationist, municipality, or art world professional.

Appraisals and Reports

I am an Italian-trained mosaicist, with a keen practiced eye. I have made a long-term commitment to the genre of midcentury mosaic, and built relationships over 20 years in the field, specializing in modern and contemporary works with a solid foundation in the study of ancient mosaics.

An historic mosaic overview report can include

- Description of content or imagery, identification of materials and techniques, contextualized within the time period it was made,
- Placing the work/s in the larger scope of the art movements and mosaic oeuvre of the era,
- Working from my inventory of thousands of images of midcentury mosaic works: applied and fine art, and architectural, to find comparable works,
- Possible identification of original artist, if the maker/artist is unknown. Many midcentury works are made by amateur artists and hobbyists, it is not always possible to confirm a maker, though influence or 'school of' can usually be established. Often, the designer of a mosaic is not the maker, even if a signature exists,
- Options if requested: Insurance valuations, condition reports, estimated fair market value and replacement value based on comps, auction records, and comparable similar work in the field. (Discussed and estimated on case-by-case),

¹ roughly 1933-1969

- Using my contacts in the field and case-studies research, the identification of professional conservators with *specific track record* of conserving, and in the case of architectural works, stabilizing, moving and re-siting mosaic works.

In the report, I will also consolidate the following information as it is available or known.

Title or subject/content for identification, if multiple pieces must be inventoried and collated,

Dimensions: Height x width x depth, Dates or estimated dates, Materials used,

Client or Sizemore will provide good in focus photos, no flash,

If I am not able to work with actual objects, we will need the full piece/s photographed front and back, and multiple detail shots from various angles and areas on the mosaic, using measurement for scale for close-up shots, photos must be in focus no flash,

Notable observations of condition, which can be used in preparation for conservation ie: location of damage, suggested repairs, surface conditions,

Research and retrieval of written documents, articles, or related ephemera on the artist or work/s.

Fees

Projects are estimated on a case-by-case basis. \$190 to initiate includes 2 hours and a base-findings report. After seeing the work or photos of the work/s and understanding the clients' general requirements, a further estimate is prepared. If you have a specific budget, I am happy to discuss what can be accomplished within your budget. Valuation requests are discussed case-by-case. Multiple works, works that are rare, unusual, or have no documentation take more time.

References upon request.

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Please contact me if you have a mosaic
you're investigating, need opinions, historical analysis and evaluation.

making and investigating mosaics since 1993



Member Affiliations : SAMA, BAMM, ASPROM, AIMC, SCA | Contributing writer to Mosaic Art NOW, Andamento, Raw Vision

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