



Society of American Mosaic Artists MAI 2019 Invitational Exhibition



Lilian Broca, *Judith Seducing Holofernes*, smalti, gold smalti, and ceramic tile borders, 48" x 70-1/2", 2014.

Photo by the artist.

by Shawn Newton, SAMA Communications Manager

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*E*mbodied, presented in partnership with the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery in Nashville, Tennessee, showcased the work of five internationally recognized artists—Lilian Broca, Shug Jones, Michael Kruzich, Atsuko Laskaris, and Carol Shelkin. The selected works survey contemporary figurative mosaic art and capture personal histories, preserved memories, and the emotional occurrences of everyday life through figurative compositions of hand formed pieces of glass, stone, and ceramic.

The exhibition was part of the 18th Annual Mosaic Arts International Exhibition series (MAI), sponsored by the Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA). MAI celebrates both established and emerging artists working in the medium today.

Lilian Broca

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

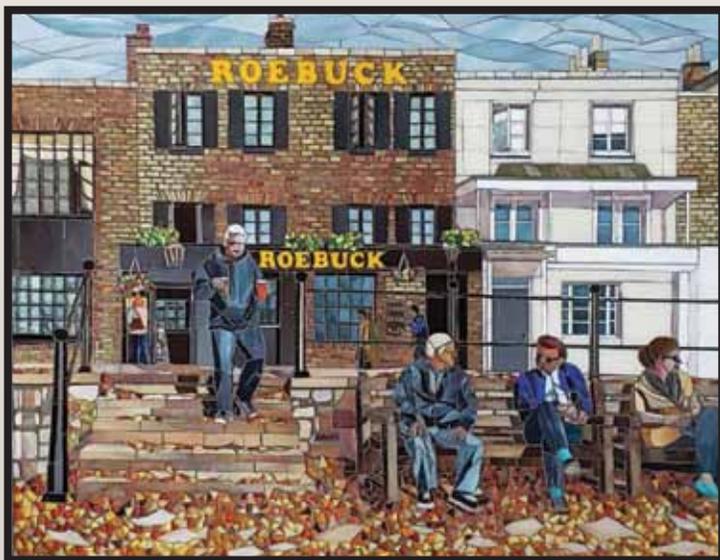
Lilian Broca's work has been featured in more than 60 exhibitions in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Celebrated for her spirited exploration of contemporary societal issues in a variety of media, Broca draws on historical iconography, legends, and popular myths.

The artist's mosaics have received the coveted Lorenzo il Magnifico Gold Medal in the mixed media category, as well as awards in several MAI exhibitions. *Return to Byzantium: The Art and Life of Lilian Broca* won Best Documentary Award at the San Pedro International Film Festival in 2012. Her book, *Heroine of a Thousand Pieces: The Judith Mosaics of Lilian Broca*, accompanied her traveling Judith Exhibition in 2017 in Canada and the United States.

Shug Jones

Garland, Texas, USA

Shug Jones' artistic path has taken her from oils to colored pencils, scratchboard to watercolors, and finally to mosaic. She was co-founder of Tesseræ Mosaic Studio, Inc., creating large-scale mosaics for residential, commercial, hospitality, and healthcare installations. In addition, she also taught across the United States and in Australia for over 13 years. Since 2014, Shug has focused almost exclusively on her fine art as Shug Jones Mosaics.



Shug Jones, *Richmond Hill—The Roebuck*, 20" x 25", stained glass, flash glass, mirror glass, glass noodles, glass rods, filati, paper, and glass, 2019. Photo by the artist.



Michael Kruzich, *Refuge*, 5' x 3', stone, Italian smalti, and gold, 2017. Photo by the artist.

Michael Kruzich

San Francisco, California, USA

Michael Kruzich was trained at the prestigious Mosaic Art School in Ravenna, Italy, by Maestra Luciana Notturmi and her colleagues. His work has been exhibited at the Ravenna Mosaico 2017 Biennale, has won awards at MAI exhibitions in 2010, 2011, and 2015, and has appeared in several art and mosaic publications. A member of SAMA and the Associazione Internazionale Mosaicisti Contemporanei, Michael is based in San Francisco, California, where he maintains his studio, creating fine art mosaics, reproductions, and commissions.



Atsuko Laskaris, *Where Are You, Peter?*, 15" x 15", stained glass, 2016. Photo by the artist.

Atsuko Laskaris

San Diego, California, USA

Atsuko Laskaris studied art and design in Japan, and after working at the Yoshio Oda Etching Studios, she married an American military serviceman in 1999. By 2010, after living in San Diego and raising two daughters, she decided to teach herself mosaics. Atsuko has received various People's and Juror's Choice Awards, exhibited in the International Mosaics Exhibition in Clauiano, Italy, 2012–2014, and won Best in Show at SAMA's MAI Invitational Exhibition in Texas in 2014 as well as in San Diego in 2016.



Carol Shelkin, *Beautiful Day*, 18" x 22", stained glass and millefiori, 2019. Photo by the artist.

Carol Shelkin

Havertown, Pennsylvania, USA

Carol Shelkin is an award-winning artist, art educator, member of SAMA, and Master Artisan of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen. She is also founder and past president of the Mosaic Society of Philadelphia and founder of Worldwide Mosaic Art Workshops and Retreats. Her work is exhibited around the world and is known for its bold, unexpected color, energetic line, and strong composition.

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The Society of American Mosaic Artists (SAMA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating, inspiring, and promoting excellence in the mosaic arts. Visit AmericanMosaics.org for more information on becoming a member.

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