



**Artist Statement** 

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Producing cutting-edge artwork at the intersection of antiquity and advanced technology, my mosaic artworks blend contemporary photography with the ancient handmade process of mosaic-making. Similarly, my murals blend natural and human subjects with a unique graphic posterized style.

Much of my artistic career and aesthetic evolved naturally from travel, collaboration with foreign artists and diverse communities, and a social practice involving educational initiatives and teaching. Increasingly, I aim to use this platform as a public artist to elevate important themes such as environmental and social justice and cultural equity. We must emblazon new monumental works with inspiring figures and narratives that need to be heard and remembered in our ever-changing world if we are to move toward a more just, fair, and honest society.

As a public artist and educator, I always strive to involve the community in projects. Whether through robust community engagement or gaining a deeper knowledge of the area's culture and history through research and dialogue, my mosaics and murals more often than not speak to the past, present, or future through my unique artistic lens. Having facilitated volunteers setting hundreds of square feet of colorful glass tile with The Mosaic Workshop, an artist-run creative hub co-founded by myself, I have learned that these workdays consequently build stronger communities, as people have a unique opportunity to forge friendships and make memories that will last a lifetime, permanently cemented into the mosaic.

Insofar as I have grown my artistic practice in recent years, I am now able to fully realize ambitious, innovative concepts in a highly technical medium. I have completed over a dozen large-scale mosaics and over twenty murals in the last four years, so I understand exactly what it will take to create artworks in a variety of mediums at nearly any scale.

Throughout this time, I have witnessed so many people brightening their days with the experience of learning and creating art, or even just experiencing art. Having the courage to be vulnerable and bring your ideas into the world for all to see, our collective creativity holds the fantastic potential to visually communicate and expand our perception of each other and the world. It is no small feat to bridge language barriers and build solidarity across cultures, though it is possible with art as the medium and the message; Life is art.

— J Muzacz

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