

Throughout my life I have had strong interest in visual and performing arts. However, in search of a financially secured future, I pursued a degree in sciences and then a master's in education. I worked at Penn State University for 10 years teaching and managing support programs. In the nineties I completed doctorate in education from Indiana University of Penna., and have been teaching at Penn State Harrisburg as a faculty in the department of Education for last 13 years.

I had no dreams of being an artist. Little did I know that I was going to get a unique art education—an education by experience. In last 25 years, I travelled different parts of the world many times over, with my husband and children, and found myself admiring and analyzing art works in museums in every city we visited. Conversations and reading about the works seen in Prado (Madrid), in Louvre (Paris), in Hermitage (St. Petersburg, Russia), in Vatican City (Rome), in Israel Museum (Jerusalem), in British Museum, and in Egyptian museum of arts, to name a few, has given me an understanding of art as a quiet transference of culture, faith, beliefs and values from one generation to another. Much like teaching.

In my travels, I also visited many archeological sites around the world and have seen histories of people and cultures. Churches depicting pictures of faith filled with breathtaking mosaics across eastern and western Europe, precious stone inlay works of northern Africa and India, and beautiful weaves and design in silk and other textiles in Turkey, China, India, and Japan, have given me the love of vibrant colors and curved lines that give words and motion to my pictures.

Howard Gardner a renowned psychologist claimed that all human beings possess a unique combination of seven or more intelligences that work together, and that each intelligence has its own trajectory based upon our experiences and opportunity. Well my trajectory of visual arts was released in 2007 and mosaic has been the medium. My faith, my love of music, dance, colors, shapes, teaching, and people all came together in mosaics. After raising a family, and pursuing a career, I find mosaic as my third act in life. ☺

I am a self-taught mosaic artist. Fascinated and inspired by the mosaics done in Europe that have lasted for hundreds of years, I use materials and produce durable works that will last much more than my life time. I make pieces of all sizes and try different techniques and substrates, yet I am drawn to making large projects that may be seen by many.

I am not about to quit my job as a professor which I love too much, and I believe that mosaic is an extension of my teaching. In a small town like DuBois PA, art is not the first thing people jump to see but those who do come to see, come to love it. Mosaic helps me to leave a legacy of teaching Learning and Loving people. Anju Jolly, Ed.D