

*Anju Jolly Mosaic Artist
Artist Statement*

Throughout my life, I have had a strong interest in visual and performing arts. However, in the search for a financially secure future, I pursued a degree in sciences and then a master's in education. I worked at Penn State University (DuBois, PA) for 10 years teaching and managing support programs. In the nineties, I completed a doctorate in education from the Indiana University of Penna., and I taught at Penn State Harrisburg as a faculty member in the Department of Education for 17 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 the last 30 years, I traveled to different parts of the world many times over, with my husband and children, and found myself admiring and analyzing artworks 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 the British Museum, and in the 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 designs 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 each intelligence has its trajectory based on our experiences and opportunity. Well, my trajectory in visual arts was released in 2005 and mosaic has been my main 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 lifetime. 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 retired from Penn State and pursuing arts more than before by adding silk painting, quilting, and jewelry making to my repertoire. I believe that art is an extension of my teaching and it helps me to leave a legacy of teaching Learning and Loving people. Anju Jolly, Ed.D