

The Art of Mosaic

History and Practice

DLA Thesis

The goal of this study is to help fine and craftsmen artists, restorers and architects deepen their theoretical and practical knowledge and can be the basis of the education of mosaic artists either individually or in an organised form.

My thesis consists of three chapters illustrating and supporting each other. The first two chapters after the introduction expose the history, the practice and the techniques of the art of mosaic. The third chapter is the written presentation of my oeuvre of examination. It is an illustration of the first two chapters from the points of the view of the artist drawn from the practice and it is thus an integral part of the thesis.

1. The history of mosaic art

This chapter gives the summary of the history of the genre of the mosaic art from the points of view of a designing or implementing artist can approach it: history, practice, technique. The chapter contains the results of my research in this field: finding out how the different cultures throughout the ages and the regions chose the technique, given their ideas and their capacities and the how the broadening of the capacities and the changing of the ideals drove the working out of new techniques. The chapter identifies the most prominent eras determining the progress of the genre.

The main aspect of the research was the practical applicability of the gained knowledge.

2. The practice of mosaic art

This chapter is intended as a handbook on the creation and implementation from the aesthetical and practical points of view. Besides the applicable techniques it provides basic information also on the tools, the machines and the materials.

The theoretical pedagogical program is the lecturing of these two chapters. The practical program can be individually tailored and can consist of hands-on work in the workshop and of the guided tours of sites, mostly buildings, monuments of art, museums, workshops, quarries etc.

3. My oeuvre of examination DLA

The oeuvre is the monumental wall mosaic “L’Envol de la liberté” (“The soaring of the Liberty”) designed by Jean Bazaine and realized as co-authors by Fabrice Vannier and by me. (Espace François Mitterrand, St-Dié des Vosges, France) This chapter presents the history of the realisation and the analysis of this piece of art.

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