

THIS ART ~~IS~~...WAS...TRASH! R.F. De Lorme

When I'm not delving into dumpsters or scavenging around salvage yards, I create Mixed-Media Mosaic Art using primarily recycled, salvaged and reclaimed materials — and I *love* the entire process. The art and craft of making mosaics is totally engrossing to me because it involves the heart in the passion of creation, the head in fitting together all the elements of the puzzle, and the hands in fine craftsmanship. For me, art is both interaction and expression; an exploration of discovery that perfectly weds the mind, the soul and the body in an ongoing, thought-provoking, and always entertaining dialog with myself, with the world around me, and with all the *stuff* — both physical and metaphysical — of life.

My process tends to be different from that of many other artists because, in a sense, I work "backwards". I usually create my concepts for work based on the materials I find before I start a piece, rather than coming up with a concept first then purchasing the materials with which to create it. While working with used materials in this way is often challenging, I find it fascinating. The materials have a tendency to "talk" to me, telling me just what they want to become in their next incarnations, as well as often engaging in lively "conversations" with the other materials I have on hand, so in the end a finished piece is really a collaboration between myself and all the materials. This interaction adds an element of surprise and adventure to my creative process, often pointing me in totally new and unexpected directions as some of that great, old stuff — that may look like nothing more than trash — takes *me* on a journey, while *it* takes on a fresh, new *artitude*.



Due to the nature of the materials I work with, as well as the stringent hand-crafting requirements of the process, each piece I create is uniquely one-of-a-kind. Many of the materials I find, usually in trash bins, recycling centers or thrift stores, are in very limited supply and the work that goes into finding, cleaning, cutting, fitting and finishing "trashed" materials is time consuming and can be tedious. Vintage and "used" materials have histories that can make working with them especially challenging. Through studies of the ancient craft and my own years of experiences I have developed a process that combines traditional methods, which are thousands of years old, with newer, modern techniques that allow me to work in a style that combines the best of both the old and the new. Thusly, I can adapt my approach to the specific requirements of the materials and to the overall vision for the finished work, making each piece a unique expression.

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Mixed
Media
Mosaics



STUDIO
Fresca

primarily recycled
& salvaged materials

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My work can be seen in a variety of art venues, as well as in residences and businesses around the world. It has consistently been selected for numerous juried art shows and exhibitions across the country — including the prestigious **2011 National Mosaic Exhibition**. I also do mosaic installation and architectural work for residences and businesses. In addition to mosaic, I often work in a variety of other media, including graphic design. I am the Art Instructor at Burke Mountain Academy and I enjoy teaching group and private classes, presenting workshops and working as an artist-in-residence for schools and community art projects because I am passionate about cooperative works and art in public spaces.