





Isa Sevrain

CLAY PAINTER

I come from France, and have lived in Canada for more than a decade, but my truest place of dwelling is in Art. I have been strongly influenced by various styles such as Byzantine, Japanese, and Art Deco. For years I practiced mime and dance. My mosaics are captured expressions of these kinetic arts, keeping the composition on the edge, always in and off balance.

*At the beginning of my exploration of ceramics, I used standard tiles as a medium for drawing, as one would use a canvas. The durability and functional aspects of this medium were attractive to me. Little by little, I became tempted to find my subject matter in the raw materials themselves. The clay thus added a dimension to these studies: draw a line in the clay, touch it and actually hold it; explore the world of form within it. Initially malleable, the clay in the drying process becomes more fragile. Once fired, its rigidity fixes the movement in space and time like an *arrêt sur image*, a glimpse of eternity. In my work, I try to distill the emotions that are inherent in movement: I dance with the clay, sometimes complying with its nature, sometimes managing to impose my desire for movement. I use colours to provide a great variety of effects and to bring harmony. Finally, the application of the grout between each piece of ceramic unifies these creations.*

My work is infused with a sense of humour and playfulness which I hope to share. Mosaic contains many elements of life, it is an architecture that allows more to be built on, and on, and on.





"I try to distill the emotions that are inherent in movement: I dance with the clay, sometimes complying with its nature, sometimes managing to impose my desire for movement."



To live is to create. I believe in the power of creation. I must therefore believe in life !... my Mandala is just about that... life... I also believe that creation has a life of its own, it shows me the way and fills me with life... as a wheel of fortune it whirls me up and down all the way to stillness only to motion me anew again and again, never abandoning me... et tant qu'il y a de la vie il y a de l'espoir' - as long as there is life there is hope... each little cell carries the power of creation, each little cell is a message of hope. In this mandala, a world of my understanding takes an human form... As humans our life and creativity is in perpetual movement... ever changing and transforming... as a species we are meant to integrate and embody a constant revolution... Vive la revolution de l'art!

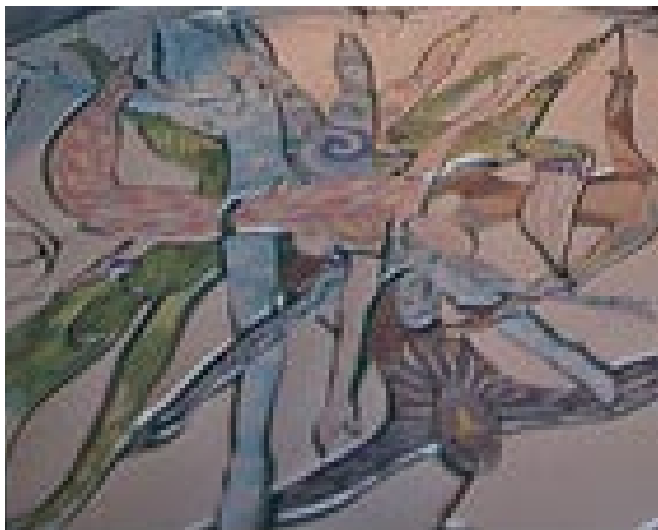
Aquadelirium is also a piece about transformation from dream to reality, from ruin to life... My daughter Delphine's hands (when she was eight) become dancing seaweed... As Shakespeare wrote, "Full fathom five thy father lies; Of his bones are coral made; Those are pearls that were his eyes: Nothing of him that doth fade; But doth suffer a sea-change; Into something rich and strange."

Isa Sevrain

Aquadelirium, ceramic tiles, 50"x30", "...is about transformation from dream to reality, from ruin to life."



Right: the *Mandala*, ceramic tiles, 36" diameter, in the process. The artist assesses the expected results. A paler version of the final artwork can be visualized in the process (below).



Solo exhibitions:

Sooke Harbour House, Sooke 2008-2010
Collective Works gallery, Victoria 2008
La Collina, Victoria 2007
Spiral café, Victoria 2007
Sooke Harbour House 2006
Moby's Pub, Salt Spring Island, B.C. 2005
Zanata Restaurant, Duncan, B.C. 2005
Peephole 1998

Group exhibitions:

Collective Works Gallery, Victoria 2008
Godfrey-Brownell Vineyards, Duncan 2007
Festival de la francophonie . Victoria 2006
On Canvas, Victoria 2004
Parksville Art Council, B.C. 1996-1997
Qualicum, Old House, B.C. 1998
X Change Gallery, Victoria, B.C. 1994 (Life drawing)

Other Exhibits, Shows and Art Fairs:

Canadian Clay & Glass Museum Gift Shop, Waterloo, Ontario, 2005
Herald Street Café, 2005
Sooke Fine Art Show, Sooke BC, 2003 (1st prize award); 2004; 2005 (20 Years Retrospective on the Artists Awarded Best in Show)
Ferry's Restaurant Victoria, B.C 2002
Out of Hand, Parkes, Filberg Festival
Craft Fair on Vancouver Island, B.C. 1999-2002
Bastion Square Market, Victoria, B.C. 1999-2002

