

Review of 2009

Gary
drostle
art for landscape & architecture

The recession seemed to take its toll early in 2009 with a major sculptural commission having the funding withdrawn. Luckily work slowly picked up through the year gathering to a tremendous pace by the end of 2009.

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A kaleidoscope of light



Mosaic Arts International, San Diego 2009

Gary's mosaic for Valentines Park in Ilford was selected for exhibition at the annual juried Mosaic Arts International held in San Diego in 2009.

Every year the Society of American Mosaic Artists, SAMA, hold their convention around a high profile mosaic exhibition. The juried exhibition is one of the high points of the mosaic year. As well as featuring work in the highly competitive exhibition Gary also lectured on mosaic art during the SAMA conference in San Diego, held in conjunction with the exhibition.



A kaleidoscope of light

Two large mosaic murals for the refurbishment of the Terrick Street underpass, part of Transport For London's major improvements for the A40 at White City, London.

Working on the theme "It's good to be me" Gary began the design process for this mosaic with a visit to the National Portrait Gallery in London with the year 4 pupils of Bentworth Primary School at White City. Following the gallery talk and visit the children drew and painted self portraits.

The portraits, some pictured here, are the result of combining the drawn and painted works together. The portraits were then printed onto tiles to be set into the mosaic.

The concept of the project was to use the kaleidoscope image to represent the highest aspirations of local children as reflected in the *'It's good to be me'* theme. The kaleidoscope image was chosen partly to reflect the nature of the site, the dark tunnel underpass like the kaleidoscopes tube, partly to bring colour, sparkle and light into the area and partly to encompass the cultural diversity of the local community and most importantly to bring to the work that wonder that every child has when holding up a kaleidoscope to the eye. The kaleidoscope image is faced at the other end of the tunnel with the portrait images from the school set in a rainbow like arc of mirror mosaic.



Asylum Rights Campaign

Gary ran a design workshop with young asylum seekers for the **Childrens Society** in the summer. It's hoped that the work will be the beginning of a larger mural or mosaic project using the theme of Identity to celebrate and highlight the lives of young asylum seekers in London.



San Diego Mosaic Summit

Gary gave an address on the creation of the De Luci Fish Mosaic Sculpture to the **American Mosaic Summit** held in San Deigo in 2009. He also lectured and ran workshops on the Indirect Technique and Classical Andamento.

The week included a visit to 'Queen Califa's Magic Circle' the gigantic mosaic garden in Escondido CA, Niki De Saint Phalle's last work before her death. Gary can be seen here with Niki's chief assistant and mosaic artist Lech Juretko.



Reflections on the Rhynes

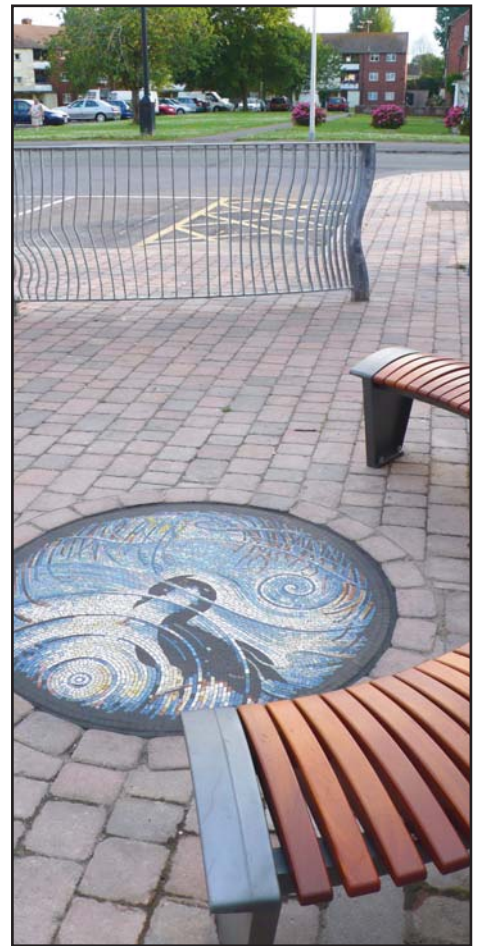


Local residents gather at the Moorhen mosaic.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE was the setting for this triptych of floor mosaics created by Gary using the local flora and fauna as its inspiration. The set of three exterior mosaics formed the focal feature for the refurbishment of a local shopping parade. The work began with consultation and design workshops with the local school, youth centre and two community centres.

The design focus' on the Rhynes, the local waterways which criss-cross the area taking water from the Somerset Levels to the sea. The idea was to show the hidden life of the local waterways through the fleeting reflections in the waters surface.

The mosaics were made from tough unglazed porcelain with additional inlaid glass.



The heron mosaic. The accompanying benches and fencing were specifically designed on the water theme.

The main central mosaic includes the distinctive pol-larded trees and rushes.

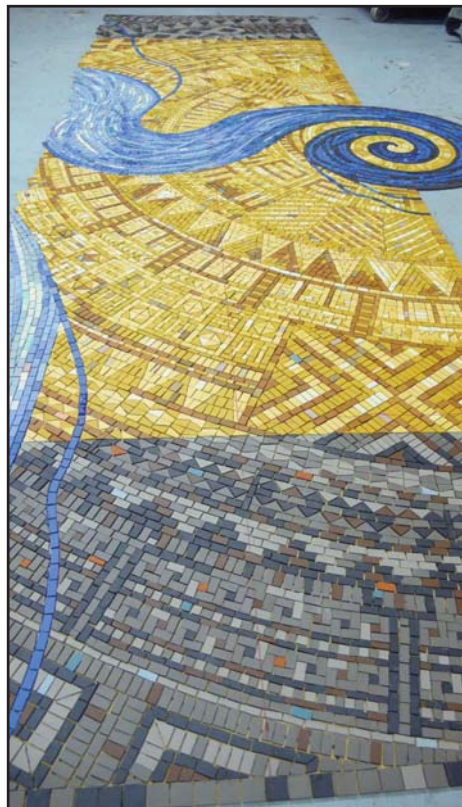


River of Life

Now underway in the studio Gary is working on two large mosaics for a new sports and wellness facility for the University of Iowa in the USA.

The main floor mosaic represents the 'River of Life', meandering across a multi patterned floor. The river image is significant for the Iowa River which runs through Iowa City. Gary's vision for the work is of the lines of our lives running across the patterns which denote culture and society, the patterns were inspired by local Iowa Native American textiles and Armesh quilt patterns. The central golden area depicts wellbeing and balance in life.

The works are due to be completed in early summer 2010 when Gary will carry out the installation.



For a copy of Gary's Practice Profile just post this slip to:-

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Gary Drostle has been creating site specific art for over twenty years. His previous work includes murals, mosaics and sculptures for parks, public buildings, town centres, hospitals and private and commercial sites across the UK and in the USA. Gary is internationally recognised as a leading mosaic artist and has won numerous awards for his work.



You can find out more by visiting www.drostle.com
If you have a specific enquiry you can e-mail gary@drostle.com or phone direct on 0771 952 9520



Other News

A New Studio

Redevelopment plans for the studio in Greenwich meant a desperate search for new premises early in 2009. Thankfully the whole studio group managed to move en-mass creating a new studio development in Woolwich. Second Floor Studios and Arts are currently working in partnership with Emafyl Properties on a 2-year initiative to develop over 100,000 sq.ft. of vacant space in 5 large industrial units on Mellish Industrial Estate in Woolwich. The new development will deliver over 200 self-contained studio units, gallery and workshop spaces.

BAMM Chairman

Gary completed his final year as President of the **British Association for Modern Mosaic**. The Association was formed to promote excellence and awareness of mosaic art in 1999 and Gary was it's second President, in 2009 Gary took over as Chairman.

Master Classes

Gary will be running a series of Master classes on Classical Andamento at the 2010 conference of the **Society of American Mosaic Artists** in Chicago.

On the horizon

Gary has just started design work on a mosaic sculpture for **Chester**. Commissions currently being negotiated for 2010 include a major mural also in **Chester** and a new childrens book for **Bexley Council**.

More news...

You can keep up with Gary's work by checking the online newsletter at www.drostle.com/newsupdate.html