



Tile Heritage Foundation

for research and preservation of ceramic surfaces

Founded in July 1987 Tile Heritage is celebrating its 36th anniversary this year. Supporters like YOU... members, major contributors, industry sponsors, generous grantors... everyone... have made possible the continued fulfillment of the Foundation's mission to Document and Preserve tile history in the U.S., both past and present. THANK YOU!



Mosaic mural by Nancy Nielsen Colbath
in Borrego Springs, California, 1968.
Photo courtesy of Ginger Dunlap-Dietz

E-News for Winter 2023

Here's What's Below

Colbath Mural Reflects
Local History

Celebrating the Arts in
Borrego Springs

Berkeley Bungalow Adorned

McIntyre Tile Company
Celebrating 50 Years

A Tribute: Frank Giorgini

Alabama Women in Conservation

Invest in Your Tile Heritage

Colbath Mosaic Reflects Local History

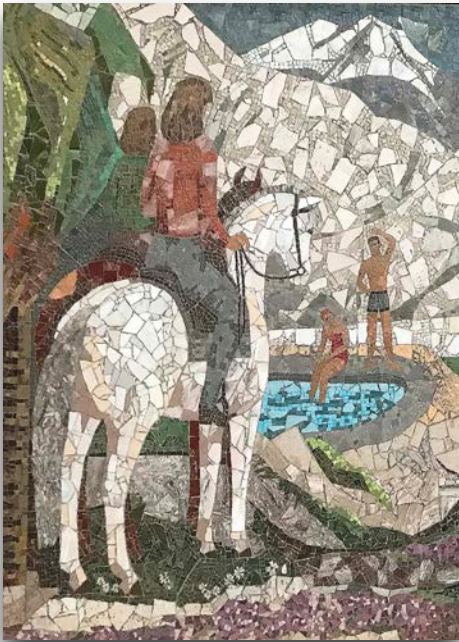
From Diana Lindsay, Borrego Sun, March 14, 2013

Borrego Springs, California, a town of 2-3000 people depending on the season, sits in the middle of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, west of the Salton Sea, a 2-hour drive northeast from San Diego.

In 1966 the Di Giorgio Corporation began construction of "The Mall," the first shopping center in this small desert community, and muralist, Nancy Nielsen Colbath, was commissioned to produce a decorative surface for the west wall of the complex depicting the history of the Borrego Valley.

Colbath Mosaic Reflects Local History

Colbath had established a suitable reputation having worked with muralists Millard Sheets and Denis O'Connor on significant projects in the Los Angeles area. Her mosaics decorate the Garrison Theater in Claremont and what is now the Chase building at Sunset and Vine in Hollywood.



Borrego Springs today, a place of serenity and tranquility with recreational opportunities.

The Borrego mosaic covers 240 square feet. Its 100,000 pieces of imported Byzantine, Venetian glass in over 100 different colors are shared with marble, granite and onyx, each piece hand-cut to fit the pre-planned design.



The farmer, his grapes and citrus depicted.

The story begins on the right with engaged people native to the area and progresses leftward to the arrival of Juan Bautista de Anza and his men who oversaw the building of the road from Mexico to establish New Spain in what is now the American Southwest. Then onto the arrival of Europeans in their covered wagons, establishing their crops as well as a sense of community that continues to this day.

Colbath took an entire year to complete her mural from the initial water color sketches to supervising the installation.



West wall of The Mall on Palm Canyon Drive depicts the history of Borrego Springs, California. Photo by Priscilla Abercrombie.

Celebrating the Arts in Borrego Springs

By Ginger Dunlap-Dietz

Thanks to a \$10,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Borrego Springs art community has been able to create clay, glass and steel panels for a mural on the exterior south wall of the Borrego Art Institute at 665 Palm Canyon Drive. Beginning in 2008 a variety of community members imprinted 12 square feet of 4-inch clay tiles as a demonstration project. In 2016 those tiles became the inspiration for the larger grant project, and now the mural consists of approximately 224 square feet of permanent artwork called "Celebrating the Arts in Borrego Springs."

The process began with a five-member team from The Pottery who designed the concept, broadly outlined the mural, and then brainstormed around the chosen theme. The decision was made to focus on pottery, sculpture, painting, written word, music, filmmaking, theater, photography, architecture, glass work, dance, and flower and nature study as well as quirky expressions of imagination that would inevitably appear.

The concept was presented to the pottery community and to local arts organizations. Participants sketched their ideas and then started turning their sketches into clay. Artists used many different techniques with the clay (hand-building, slabbing, carving, wheel work, and underglaze painting)



Ginger Dunlap-Dietz, a longtime Tile Heritage member, now a permanent resident of Borrego Springs, served as a mural designer and a community cheerleader for the project.



Celebrating the Arts (continued)

to convey their ideas in a way that would be clear to others. The clay tile art was created predominately at the Borrego Art Institute pottery program's unique outdoor studio on the property of the Borrego Springs High School.

Once the pieces were glazed and fired, installation, assembly and fabrication of the murals panels occurred in a donated indoor studio, a larger space located in a commercial storefront that gave members of the community an opportunity to watch the progress.

Mounting the mural pieces onto steel framed, weather-resistant boards was an ongoing process.

Each panel evolved as its parts were completed and mosaic and grouting could occur. Because there so many stages going on at one time, participants got a hands-on opportunity to learn about – or at least observe – the steps involved in putting up such a large piece of art. Another benefit of the process was that many of those involved learned new skills related to clay and mosaic, such as cutting, gluing, grouting, cleaning and polishing.



Over 150 members of the community participated in large and small ways in the process of planning, creating, and installing this surprising and memorable piece of art. The completed mural was unveiled in a public ceremony on March 23, 2019 with nearly 200 people attending. "Celebrating the Arts in Borrego Springs" is available day and night for all to enjoy long into the future.



Linzer residence in Berkeley, California.

Berkeley Bungalow Adorned

From Deborah Linzer, Berkeley, California

Hello,

I am writing to find out the manufacturer of this decorative tile that is the keystone in the fireplace of my home in Berkeley, California. The house was built in 1938. I am curious as to whether it is a Handcraft Art Tile. Any information that you can provide is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Deborah Linzer

Hello Deborah!

Thanks for the tile image of your fireplace. It is in fact a Woolenius Tile Co. tile produced in Berkeley. Your tile is insert #1003-S-P in the 1938-39 Woolenius catalog. This is a beauty — thanks for the share!

Can you send us a picture of the whole fireplace? We document fireplaces. We would also like a picture of the exterior of your house for our records. We do not need your actual address - we know the city. We do feature lovely tile 'finds' in our "E-News" online. We do not need to name owners or streets.



Keystone, Woolenius Tile Company, 1938



Woolenius tile fireplace and mantel

We are very happy to be able to identify the tile for you. Attached is a record of the information Tile Heritage has on file for this company.

Warm regards, Sheila Menzies

From Deborah,

This is exciting! I wonder how many of my neighbors have tiles from the same factory. This may become a project. Thank you for your prompt response.

Best, Debbie

McIntyre Tile Company 50 Years and Counting...

From Attractions, the Redwood Empire Magazine, May 1975

“In a converted railroad warehouse near the Russian River in Healdsburg, California trained artisans practice the time-honored craft of tile making. The result: a contemporary solution to the requirement for rich and natural finishes. McIntyre Tile perpetuates the mystique and integrity of handcrafted material – a perfect answer to meet today’s demand for a natural living environment.

“While other tiles are machine-pressed for mass production, McIntyre tile is produced specifically for each order. Following the tradition of ancient China, Japan and pre-industrial Europe, each tile is individually formed, finished and glazed by hand processes, then high-fired to a temperature of 2400 degrees Fahrenheit in a reduction atmosphere. The result is a highly sophisticated ceramic product exhibiting subtle variations in size, shape and thickness in distinctive glaze colors of special beauty and life.

“Bob McIntyre, born and raised on the West Coast, founded the company in the summer of 1972 after working at Heath Ceramics in Sausalito, California for 5 years. Together with two other ceramists from Heath, Peter Immordino and Joe Kopczynski, Bob accomplished what no other contemporary tile manufacturer had even attempted: the creation of a truly handmade, high-fired stoneware, unique to the tile market.”



At the front door of the McIntyre Tile factory in Healdsburg, California the summer of 1977. From the left: Donna Dunn, Peter Immordino, Mark Hagar, Bob McIntyre, Mary McIntyre, Joe Kopczynski, Joe Taylor and Les Busic.



Bob McIntyre (from 1972) surrounded by the company’s original sample boards from the THF archives.

McIntyre Tile Company celebrating 50 years... July 8, 2022



"Les (Busic) is More" with Sheila Menzies & Joe Taylor.



Forever friends: Joe Kopczynski and Peter Immordino.



Omar Espinosa, production manager, with son, Dante.



Anne and Steve Johnson, managing partner.

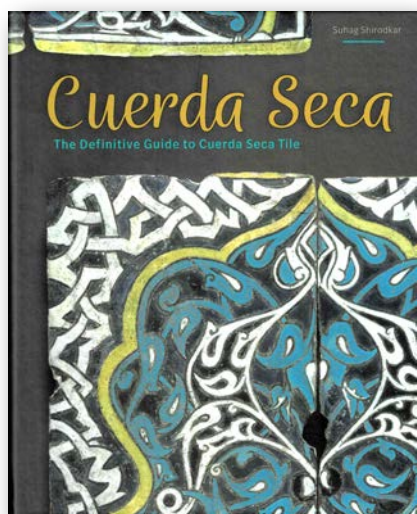
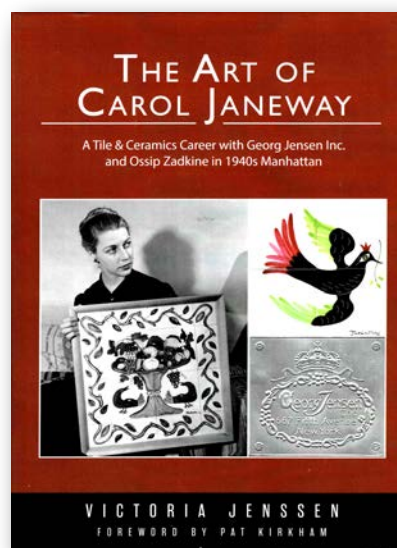


The McIntyre Tile family: employees, past/present, their families and friends. Plus Mary Taylor via Zoom.
Photography above by Caitlin McCaffrey. Previous page: courtesy of Bob McIntyre and McIntyre Tile Company.

New Books for your tile library

The Art of Carol Janeway
A Tile and Ceramics Career with Georg Jensen Inc. and
Ossip Zadkine in 1940s Manhattan
by Victoria Jensen

Order from your local book store or online. (450 pages)



Cuerda Seca
The Definitive Guide to Cuerda Seca Tile
by Suhag Shirodkar

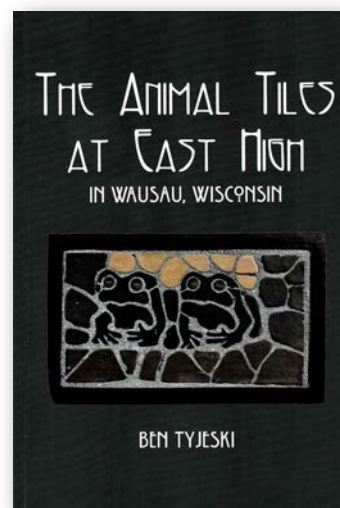
The only how-to book available on cuerda seca, a traditional and historic tile-making technique!

FIND IT in your local book store or online. (176 pages)

The Animal Tiles of East High
in Wausau, Wisconsin

by Ben Tyjeski

Order direct from the author:
www.tyjeskitile.com
(30 pages)



The Mosaic Tile Company
History and Products, 1894-1967

by Larisa Harper

Chronicles the history of ceramic creativity in Zanesville, Ohio.
Order from your local book store or online. (161 pages)

A Tribute: Frank Giorgini (1947-2022)



Frank Giorgini enjoys a moment in his studio with his melange of exotic creatures prepared for exhibition. The tiles range in size up to 18" x 18". Photo by Dimitri Belyl.

A dear friend to many, Frank Giorgini passed away October 16th 2022. In addition to being kind, generous and great fun to be with, Frank was a brilliant tile maker, architectural ceramist and muralist as well as an exquisite master UDU drum-maker. As an innovative teacher he personally shared his talents with hundreds, and through his book, *Handmade Tiles: Designing, Making, Decorating*, he reached thousands around the world with his expertise while providing a stage for many of his students by featuring their work alongside his own. His book with its hands-on approach to tile making served as a major impetus for the Art Tile Renaissance of the 1990s even to this day.

Frank's public tile murals grace many venues in the U.S. including the NYC subway system. Witness one of his spectacular installations at South Ferry/Whitehall Street station under Battery Park in Manhattan: https://www.nycsubway.org/perl/artwork_show?29. Frank is equally honored and loved for his prolific UDU drum making and teaching legacy. For many summers he held an UDU-making & playing festival at his studio in the Catskill Mountains - a joy for all participants. Here is a link honoring Frank's UDU legacy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvZH-1bVmuY>. Shut your eyes and enjoy!

Viva Frank, Viva! Your legacy will live on into the future in the art and craft of your own installations as well as those of many inspired by your work... accompanied by the music of your UDU drums and those made by others through your teaching and joyful guidance.

Sheila and Joe

Alabama Women in Conservation Award

From Gaye Lindsey with special thanks

In Birmingham, Alabama on October 13, 2022 The Nature Conservancy in Alabama presented the Alabama Women in Conservation Award to Dr. Joyce Lanning, the first recipient of the newly established honor.

Dr. Lanning, a longtime conservation activist in this Southern state and beyond, focuses her attention on climate change, raising people's attention in classrooms, through committees and in public presentations, encouraging participation and commitment to addressing the realities of our world and its challenges.

The Alabama Women in Conservation Award itself is a mounted ceramic tile designed and produced by Gaye Lindsey, born and reared in Alabama, now residing in Fairhope on the east shore of Mobile Bay.

When Gaye, a close friend and longtime member of Tile Heritage, agreed to create a plaque for the award, she decided on making a ceramic tile in her studio at home, having familiarity with clays and glazes from producing individual decorative tiles from time to time over the years. She chose as her subject the carnivorous Canebroke Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia alabamensis*) since it is endemic to Alabama, found only in the Roberta Case Preserve in Autauga County.

INVEST IN YOUR TILE HERITAGE



Tile Heritage Legacy Friends Planned Giving
<https://endowment.tileheritage.org/>