

## MAGNIFICENT MOSAICS

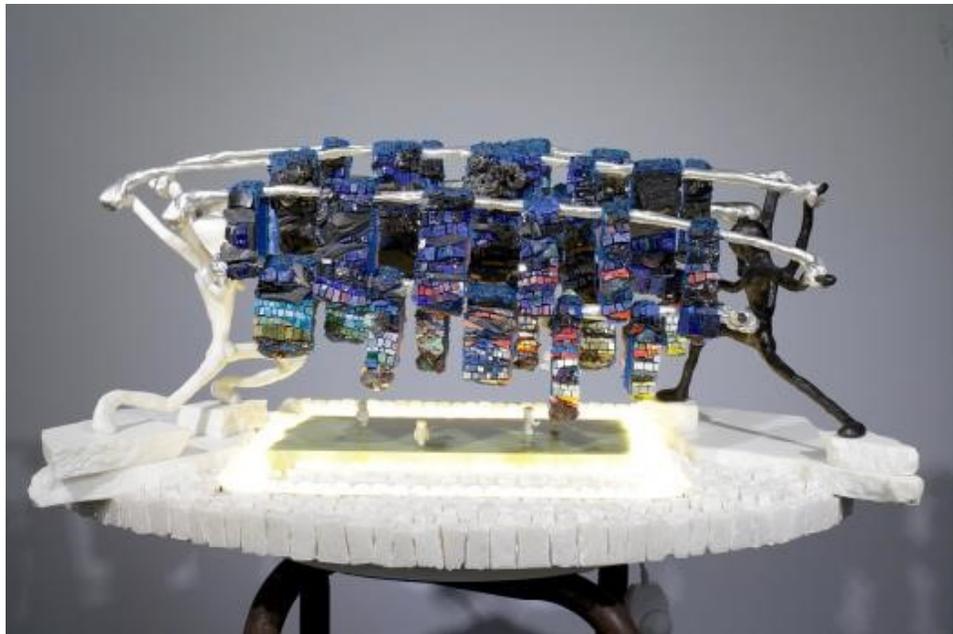
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*Julie Sperling is a Canadian mosaicist camped out at the intersection of art, environment, science, and policy. She firmly believes in the important role that artists play as advocates, activists, and change-makers.*

Confession: I have a big mosaic crush on Karen Dimit. I swoon over her commitment to advancing social issues through her art. I love her unabashed enthusiasm for materials. And I am constantly impressed by her fearless approach to engineering. *Women Hold Up Half The Sky, Plaza #2* represents what I most admire about Karen's work. It is full of energy and tension, both feminine and masculine in equal parts and it advocates for gender equality in a beautifully intimate and celebratory way.

Maybe I'm partial to this piece because it was one of the first ones I saw her create from start to finish via the magic of Instagram. I watched as she established the energy of the figures. I was like a kid in a candy store as she chose her materials with intent, each for a reason far bigger than their good looks. I was fascinated as the ribbons of sunset and sunrise came to life. And just when I thought she was done, she decided it needed some under lighting, so she engineered that (of course).



*Women Hold Up Half The Sky, Plaza #2*

Smalti, gold smalti, minerals, marble, reused glass, LED lights, magic sculpt, concrete, acrylic paint

I was thrilled when she was accepted into The Society of American Mosaic Artists' *Mosaic Arts International* show and heartbroken when her masterpiece was damaged en route. I held my breath as she performed emergency repairs, seemingly unfazed. Calamity befell the mosaic once more on its way home, but Karen resurrected it yet again. She embraced the challenge, and each trial and tribulation was gracefully and philosophically woven into the story of the piece, imbuing it with even greater meaning.

Karen's work pushes me forward in my own advocacy efforts and I feel like I have a co-conspirator in her. I will watch with great anticipation as she continues to dazzle us with her social practice, her treasure chest of materials, and her feats of engineering.

**Julie Sperling**

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