

Fine Venetian Mosaic

This mosaic is in the family of an acquaintance. Her great-grandmother bought it in Venice on the date shown- March 27, 1896. We suppose that mosaics like this were available to visitors who wished to have a special memento. This would mean that it would have been ordered, and then the date added before the mosaic would have been taken home.



It was brought to me to consider repairs. There are several small areas where some glass is missing. In a few of the areas, one can look into the cavity and it appears that the glass may have been pushed down into the mosaic base. Please see our questions regarding this mosaic at the end of page 3.

Right: The border pieces are rectangles of melted-together black and white glass. The small rounded glass flowers consist of a center piece of glass surrounded by five individual petals, with each petal made of three shades or colors of glass. Likewise, the radial flowers have a glass piece in the center and many petals, each petal being a solid piece of two or more colors. The leaves are single glass pieces of three colors- a yellow and two shades of green.



The glass is actually in relief, notably across the top where the flowers and some of the other elements extend above the overall surface of the mosaic by as much as 1.25 cm (1/2"). Generally, the off-white glass creates the background, and the other colored elements are in relief.



Left: This section shows, in addition to the green and yellow leaves, leaves that are brown and shades of dark green.

While I do stained glass repair and some mosaic repair, the fine-ness of the mosaic, the special qualities of the glass itself, and the intricacy of the work is too daunting for me to take on.

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I want to share this mosaic because it is so amazing. While I have experience with tile and glass mosaic including Byzantine style mosaic made with smalti, this mosaic is a very special blend of glassmaking and fine mosaic construction.

Right: Here one can see how even the branches are articulated. If one looks at the center of the photo, then up just a bit and to the right, you might spot one of the slightly damaged areas- some blue flower petals and a yellow flower center are missing.



Here are some measurements. The mosaic is 30 cm wide x 47 cm high (11-5/8" x 18-1/2"). It is set into a wood frame, with wood on the back. The

exposed face of the off-white background glass is 1mm or just a little more (about 1/16"). The beveled mirror is in quite good condition.



Left: This photo from the bottom left of the mosaic also has a damaged area- it is at the center of the photo. Some flower petals and flower centers are missing.

Here are some questions we are trying to answer:

What is the Italian word for this type of work?

Who has the skills and knowledge to repair this mosaic? Are mosaics like this made today?

If you have any questions or answers or want to discuss this mosaic some more, please contact me. My contact information is at the bottom of the page.