



Kate Kerrigan: As I See It

By Laura Peall

Many mosaic artists today turn to found photographs as a starting point for mosaic composition. Whereas once the drawing of a "cartoon" began the process, representational mosaic artists increasingly use the digital information of a photo to guide decisions about design, color, value, perspective, and scale.

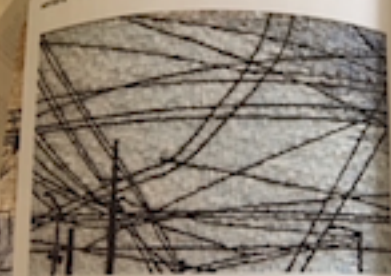
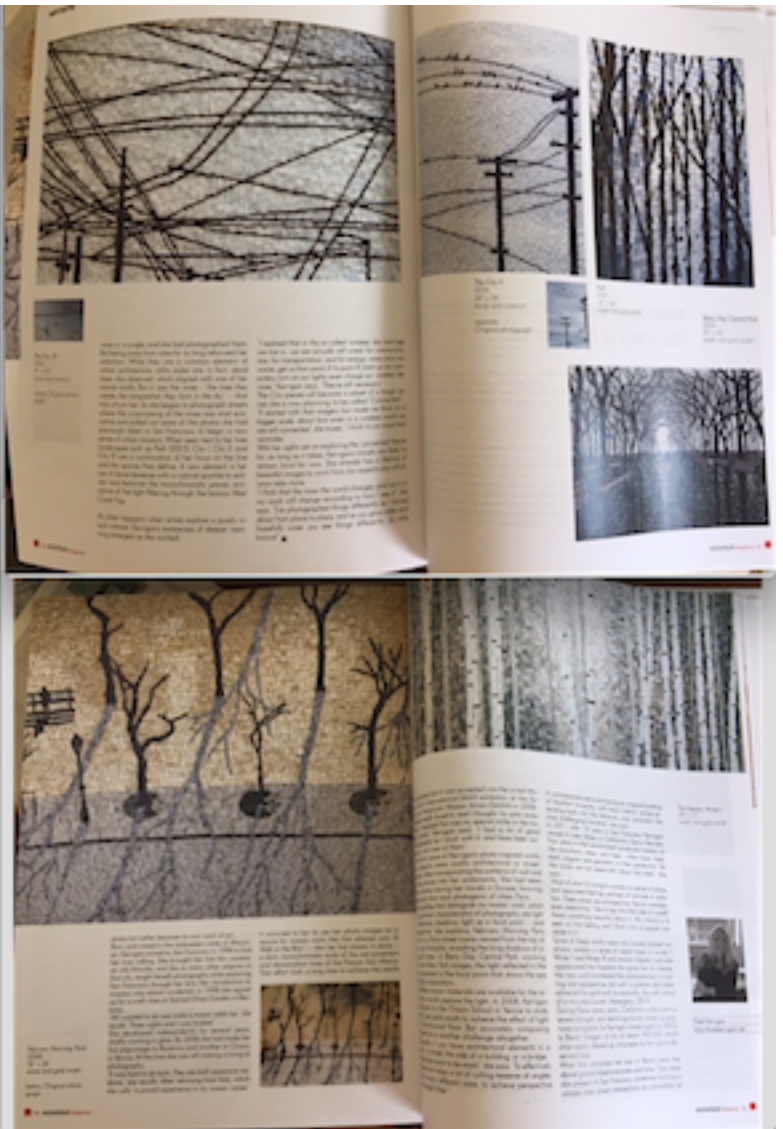
For mosaicist Kate Kerrigan's work, however, original she links the two mediums directly. A self-taught artist, she uses only her own photographs as a starting point for her mosaic work. Today she is known for her moody mosaic landscapes, both urban and natural, highly attentive to light and shadows. In her more monochromatic pieces, one can see the influence of the black and white photography she favored. Inspiration to create mosaics stems from what she calls "the initial view" — that which causes her to snap a photo — is the starting point of both the photograph and her emotional response to it. Both are shared in the original image and remain to be reinterpreted in the second medium.

"I don't strive for photographic realism," she says. "I take the idea from my photographic composition and interpret it through stone or shell. I either free-hand draw it or loosely trace it, leaving all of the color choice detail and execution up to me," she told me. "I leave a lot of room for interpretation. I love the texture and beautiful qualities that the art of mosaic brings to the piece. The mosaic is not a copy of the original."



Top: Original photograph
Bottom: Mosaic artwork

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