
This thesis contextualizes the work of Isaiah Zagar, a Philadelphia mosaic artist, within the genre of art environments and the development South Philadelphia. Zagar creates large-scale architectural mosaics that use non-traditional materials. His unusual mosaics can be found on building facades, garages, and walls throughout the city.

Zagar’s more than 125 mosaics throughout Philadelphia constitute one exceptional art environment, which is artistically, culturally, and historically significant on the local and national level.

This thesis also articulates the numerous preservation challenges Zagar’s fragile work faces and offers specific preservation recommendations that address those challenges.