

The Peoples of the Earth (2021)

If the world were grateful for the God who becomes man for all of us to show ourselves how to be happy, each one would be thankful and bring his best gifts.

Europe would bring grapes, which are among the essential elements of Mediterranean civilization, and that is what explorers brought to Moses as a sign of the abundance of the promised land.

Asia would dispense pomegranate grains, symbol of fruitful love and the intense relationship between the beloved, as in the Song of Solomon, and sign of the blessing of God.

America would come to husking corn, which refers to the meaning of the cycle of rebirth in nature and the passage of the soul from shadow to light.

Oceania would offer kiwis, fruit that once was intended for the tables of nobles, and whose name is that of five species of rare birds.

Africa would bring dates, which in the desert assure nourishment for all (according to other religions as well) and traditionally also for the Holy Family during the journey after the birth of Jesus.

So in this crib universalism is represented by five women symbolizing the five continents of the planet as they bring the fruits of the Earth as a gift.



UN PRESEPIO DI MOSAICO curated by CULTURA IMAGO MUSIVA with keen appreciation of REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIUGIA

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UN PRESEPIO DI MOSAICO

A CRIB MADE OF MOSAIC

In December and January a crib, unique in the world, enriches the Cathedral Square in Spilimbergo, in the north east of Italy. It is composed of life-size figures covered on both sides with the splendor of golden and coloured glass mosaic glazes.

The project “un Presepio di Mosaico” has been developed by the Association Cultura Imago Musiva, which every year adds new figures thanks to the help of benefactors, involving in the mosaic making process both established craftsmen and young mosaicists.

An artistic will is to realize numerous figures, whose sketches have already been designed by Alessandro Serena, to be seen front and back, defined with coherent matching to suggest realistic tridimensional shapes.

A unique experiment has been the use of coloured transparent glazes on opaque and transparent different materials to involve light with its unexpected reflections and refractions. The robes, the faces and the richness of colours that recall the Renaissance ways of art, also aim to a timeless classicism. The extraordinary mosaic technique and expressiveness shows the essence of sacredness. It elevates the mind and spirit, and suggests beauty, which is God’s language and the maximum aspiration of men.

This crib renews a historical cultural identity, and realizes a wonderful scenography to offer everyone peace and happiness, and to warm every heart with enchantment and poetry.

The Holy Family (2019)

In the cribs there is always the Baby on the ground or in a manger, on the Virgin’s knees or in the arms of Our Lady. Here Jesus is up high, shining, raised to give hope to everyone, wrapped up and protected, and He is a gift from Mary and Joseph to the world, above all a mysterious gift of God, as indicated by the halos embellished with gold.

It is one family, the Trinitarian seat of reciprocity and life of love, placed above a symbolic octagonal base which represents straw as a symbol of the complexity and fragility of life. The hand of Joseph gently gives support and shares the gesture of Mary.

The sense of humility has been sought in the kneeling figures, and the figurative realism of the Incarnation is suggested by enveloping the little one in a blanket. The gold mosaic on robes and halos hints to the extraordinariness and the height of the meanings in the nativity scene. The colours chosen are symbolically rich: earth colours for Saint Joseph; red for the act of love of Mary, covered by the blue that indicates Wisdom and therefore the Holy Spirit upon her; white absolute and silver for the fullness of humanity and the royal divinity of the child Jesus, and turquoise like living water; transparent gold and enamels in the halos create an infinity of luminous reflections, splendid in the sunlight.

The Three Archangels (2020)

In this mosaic crib, new and very special in technique and meanings, appear the three most important archangels. In the Holy Scriptures they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night, and glorify Him. Therefore here they are placed to guard the God Made man, like butlers and great cuirassiers of the Nativity. They have Raphaelesque features in the twin faces, ethereal wings with iridescent reflections, angelic robes white and silver woven of colored gold and opaque and transparent glazes.

Michael, in the red color of strength and love, winner of the last battle against Satan and his supporters, holds a two-handed golden spear, ready to defend the Holy Family and all the people of God from evil, from ugliness and sin.

Gabriel, in the green of hope, is the messenger who predicts to Mary the birth of Jesus, and here with one hand indicates the Nativity and with the other opens a scroll of the Old Testament to remind us of the prophecies of the coming of the Saviour.

Raphael, in the blue of intellect, head of the guardian angels and guardian of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, supports a golden amphora, ready to absolve his task par excellence, that of a healer.

The Three Theological Virtues (2021)

They are Faith, Hope and Charity. The best way to respond to divine love, which manifests itself in the birth of Jesus, is by living and accepting this virtuous logic placed by God in the heart of everyone. Virtues are human faculties but also a precious and free gift of the Holy Spirit, a guarantee of holiness and of moral life.

Faith, with a white robe and the sacred text of the Bible, makes clear to us the truth about the human being. Hope, as she prays with her gaze turned to Heaven, sets us on the path to the apotheosis of happiness, which we exist for and we all aspire to.

Charity, in the act of giving comfort to a very young in need, makes us interpreters of selfless love which means mercy and good for man.

Even the poet Dante Alighieri speaks of them in the cantica of the Paradise of the Divine Comedy: in canto XXIV, in the eighth Heaven of the Fixed Stars, Saint Peter examines Dante on what Faith is, and in response it is defined argument and proof of transcendence; in canto XXV, Saint James asks Dante about Hope, which is to be said unquestionably waiting for eternal glory; in canto XXVI St. John asks the great poet about Charity and he affirms that divine love is the beginning and the end of every earthly love.



Watch the videos of the realizations:
www.unpresepedimosaico.it

For those who want to participate as benefactors of the project: Association Cultura Imago Musiva bank account SWIFT CCRTIT2TFOB and IBAN IT28A0880565030013000013352