

Artist  
Statement

# Darren Smith

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Kaleidoscopes.

Broken mirrors.

Reflections on water.

I have always been intrigued by things that create new visions of the world around me. I developed my artistic technique – making mosaics from my photographs – to have my own way of remixing reality.

Each mosaic is handmade using glue and hundreds or thousands of small fragments of my photographs. I shoot many photos of a scene, create a new composition with the prints, cut them into small pieces and glue them back together. The layering of the pieces adds a sculptural component to the works, and the shadows they cast create a subtle three-dimensional effect.

My work subverts the “truth” that photographs are thought to document, transforming a mechanical medium with the hand, and rewarding the viewer with visual surprises. From a distance, each mosaic looks like a painting, get closer and you see a photo, and further inspection will reveal the intricate mosaic construction. The effect is like gazing in a broken mirror, where the fractured edges allow me to remix reality, bridging the gap between how the world is and how I see it.

Travel fuels my passion and my work, and I have a large body of work of over 150 pieces, representing locations from around the world. All my mosaics are completely handmade, using only archival materials designed for longevity.