

## TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS DIALECTICAL AESTHETICS IN THE CONTEMPORARY MURALS OF GIULIO MENOSSI AND DINO MACCINI

التطور التكنولوجي وجمالياته الجدلية في الجداريات المعاصرة لأعمال الفنانين  
" جوليو مينوسي و دينو ماتشيني "

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### ABSTRACT

The research delves into the pivotal role of creative vision in an artist's thought process that guides the pursuit of innovative designs translated into various media. Contemporary mural works are influenced by technological advancements in raw materials and the study analyzes relief formation mosaics by prominent Italian artists, Giulio Menossi and Dino Macconi. The research **draws attention** the three-dimensional nature of these works and their innovative, contemporary vision that is characterized by aesthetics, technique, color, and sculptural performance. The impact of science and technology on mural art is explored through examples of artists' works, underscoring the significance of materials in the technical process. The study **focuses on** the role of material in both hanging and wall-based artwork that combines innovative technical skills, uncovering new raw materials, and revealing unique plastic formations. The research underscores the importance of diversity in aesthetic vision, color, harmony and their interconnectedness in shaping contemporary mural works that enriches the visual appeal of relief formation mural art.

### KEYWORDS

Contemporary؛ 3D Mosaic؛ Innovation

### المخلص

البحث يتناول الدور المحوري للرؤية الإبداعية في عملية التفكير الفني للفنان، موجهاً سعيه للتصميم الابتكاري المترجم في وسائط متنوعة. ومن خلال التركيز على الأعمال الجدارية المعاصرة، المتأثرة بالتقدم التكنولوجي في المواد الخام، يقوم البحث بتحليل تكوين اللوحات الفسيفسائية ثلاثية الأبعاد من خلال أعمال فنانين إيطاليين بارزين مثل جوليو مينوسي، و دينو ماتشيني. ويسلط **البحث الضوء** على الطبيعة ثلاثية الأبعاد لهذه الأعمال ورؤيتها المبتكرة والمعاصرة، التي تتميز بالجماليات والتقنية واللون والأداء النحتي. ويتناول أيضاً تأثير العلوم والتكنولوجيا على فن الجداريات من خلال أمثلة من أعمال الفنانين، مؤكداً أهمية الخامة في العملية التقنية. **ويركز البحث على** دور المواد في الأعمال الفنية المتعلقة والقائمة بذاتها كعمل جداري منفرد على الحائط، مساهماً في تطوير مهارات تقنية مبتكرة، واستكشاف مواد جديدة، وكشف تكوينات تشكيلية فريدة. وتكمن **أهمية البحث** في التأكيد على التنوع في الرؤية الجمالية، وتناغم الألوان، وترابطها في تشكيل الأعمال الجدارية المعاصرة، في إثراء الجاذبية البصرية لفن تكوينات اللوحات الفسيفسائية المعاصرة.

### الكلمات المفتاحية

المعاصرة ؛ الفسيفساء المجسمة؛ الابتكار

## 1. Introduction

Technology has an effective influence on the artist's thoughts and this leads the artists into a world full of intellectual and technological innovations. An example of this is the applied methods for implementing their creativity and integrating them in the field of various plastic arts, especially mural arts. This advanced approach led to the production of new types of wall art, especially stereoscopic mosaics, but with a contemporary vision. Scientific research demonstrates how technology has transformed contemporary wall art, the methods of implementing works, and changing the perception of the concept of art. We see that the mural artist's thoughts have become unrestricted and bring the artistic masterpieces closer to the recipient. Technology changes as the tool and processor that the artist uses to execute the artwork because plastic arts enable the artist to reexamine his surroundings with a new artistic viewpoint. This makes him creative in producing new, useful, and varied works even as he is keen to draw attention to its uniqueness and its effectiveness in attracting the recipient. On the other hand, we find that contemporary art is related to the style and innovation created by the artist. Science and technology have their impact on the production of diverse and unique designs in 3D mosaic artworks in the field of wall arts and their larger artistic practices as mentioned in the works of artists, Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini. We find in their 3D mosaics art works, a contemporary visual language that creates individual harmony in terms of design and application. Also, the use of the color consistency of the material in the 3D mosaic artwork, with its levels of multiple capabilities, makes it a fertile field and a springboard for artistic development. The knowledge and technological progress that contributed to supporting the plastic arts and the creations of the mural artist led to the introduction of various forms of mural works to the world. It encouraged the artist to overcome the various challenges in which some were supposed to find inspiration. Technology contributed to artistic diversity to a great extent, helping to break the traditional mold called flat, two-dimensional wall works and dressing it in the modes that are contemporary, and then forming a new structure for the mold of art and giving it the color of knowledge.

Every form of art contains an element that we can repeat, and it is also subject to creativity and diversity. Each artwork is also subject to certain stylistic rules that are consistent with its nature, just as the artist interacts with the material and is consistent with the vision that it reveals to the recipient to whom this revelation is intended.

Contemporary trends of 3D mosaic artwork have had a great impact on changing the culture and thought of European mural artists. Consequently, these designs were unique in terms of style and implementation and one of the most important of these works, which represents 3D mosaics artwork unusually and unconventionally, are the works of artists Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini. By exposure to those models, where we find non-traditional design solutions for the art of relief formation mosaic. this served as a way to enhance the notion of this study work.

Also, there is limited knowledge of some artists with works that represent a departure from the second dimension in other places of the world. So, there is a need to draw inspiration from the diversity of the material for mosaic art because of its strong and effective impact on the plastic side. We see the extent of the different effects of the colors, the nature of the materials, the textures, and the applied methods of the mural work in a more comprehensive way than what is

known in the past. The focus of the paper is on characterizing and analyzing the 3D mosaic artworks of renowned artists, Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini.

Based on what was previously presented in the research problem, it includes the following questions:

- What are the influential features in the relief formation mosaic designs of Italian artists Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini?
- What is the extent of improvisation in the works of these artists?
- How can we benefit from and be inspired by the plastic possibilities and contemporary treatments in the production of stereoscopic mural works?
- How did emotion affect the choice of color and harmony in the works of *Giulio Menossi* and *Dino Maccini*?

### 1.1 Research Objectives:

- Contemporary patterns of three-dimensional mosaics involve leveraging technological advancements to create unconventional three-dimensional mural works.
- This entails analyzing the philosophical vision behind the innovative design in the works of artists like Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini.
- These artists utilize cutting-edge technology to push the boundaries of traditional artistic frameworks, resulting in unique and extraordinary three-dimensional mural art.
- The exploration of their philosophical approach to innovations in design sheds light on the transformative impact of technology on the evolution of three-dimensional mosaic art.

### 1.2 Research Hypotheses:

- The research assumes the possibility of locating contemporary aesthetic values in the 3D mosaic artwork designs and finding new artistic values while highlighting the role of the material in achieving color and harmony by drawing inspiration from international wall models.

### 1.3 Research Aims

- By exposure to those models where we find non-traditional design solutions for the art of relief formation mosaic, we are exposed to a way to enhance the notion of this study ,the work of *Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini*
- Description and critique of artistic experiments carried out by Italian artists Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini employing cutting-edge materials, as well as their methods for creating and shaping them and their creative applications of them
- Identifying the compositional dimension of the plastic functions of the raw material in the three-dimensional mosaic works and the value of achieving the third dimension
- Analysis of the semantic relationships and interconnections from a diverse and unique selection of 3D mosaics executed in an innovative and contemporary way.

### 1.4 Research Importance

The research contributes to achieving the following aspects

- The research allows us to identify the nature of 3D mosaic artwork designs with specifications that highlight their plastic and formal values in terms of performance and design.
- The research aims to come up with innovative designs that serve contemporary wall works, especially in the context of the technological development of raw materials.
- The research explores the development of artistic methods and appropriate techniques for plastic and formal treatments of contemporary 3D mosaics.
- Focuses on models of 3D mosaic artworks through the artist's experience and vision of this technique in its various expressive and formative possibilities.

### 1.5 Research Limits

- The research is limited to the analytical study of Italian artists, *Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini*, in their 3D mosaic artwork.

### 1.6 Research Methodology

- The research relies on the analytical descriptive approach

It includes analysis, study, and description of the philosophical characteristics and features of relief formation mosaic designs and their impact as a source of inspiration for mural art.

- Analysis of the 3D mosaic artworks of Italian artists **Giulio Menossi and Dino Maccini**

## 2.THE VISUAL AND AESTHETIC ASPECTS OF GIULIO MENOSSIS WORK

The artist, Giulio Menossi, is a master of mosaic art Born in Udine, Italy Menossi moved to Milan at the age of 18 where he began three years of tutelage under mosaic maestro Domenico Coledani. In the early 1970s, Menossi broadened his mosaic expertise at Crovatto Mosaics in New York. In 1976, he returned to his beloved Udine to establish his studio. His talent and dedication to the art of mosaic have led him to be known for his high technique. He is a Member of the most prestigious exhibitions juries in this field, he also acts as a master mosaicist in specialistic workshops and as conference referee. Menossi's art highlights his unique personality which made his use of the material a medium through which he expresses his emotions and feelings. His creative abilities are represented in the creation of innovative formative formations and relationships in the world of Relief formation mosaics from which he took an independent departure, not an applied art. His works sparked a hypothetical controversy in the world of

contemporary murals, surprisingly in terms of conducting experiments but with the total preservation of classical teachings (menossi, 2018) (*Fig 1*)



*Fig 1, an explosion of shapes and colors combines sculpture and painting, Journey to the Eye of the Sun - Giulio Menossi-2022*  
<https://italiana.esteri.it/italiana/en/eventi/a-lione-in-mostra-i-mosaici-dinamici-di-giulio-menossi/>

The artist pointed out that the art of 3D mosaic artwork is nothing but an informal space for the artist. It is also a presumption of knowledge and a response to the artist's constant search for passion, love, dreams, and imagination. And, on the other hand, it is also a continuous search for innovation without neglecting academic teachings. The artist mentioned that the art of mosaics is the net of rich techniques that tell or interpret stories. Through it, we learn about the history of human civilizations. It also folds over the viewer and brings them into the artist's private world through colors, design, different levels, and sizes, and as he expressed it metaphorically, "It makes them walk in his magical world made of colors, shapes, and harmony. Thus, we see the impact of the material on mural Painting in general and its compaction to highlight the applied part of this artwork along with its aesthetic data and appropriate characteristics which concretize modernity and contemporaneity in artistic creativity. This transfers the centrality of 3D mural artworks to an important axis in the relationship of the artwork to the experimental process. (menossi, 2018) *Fig. 2*

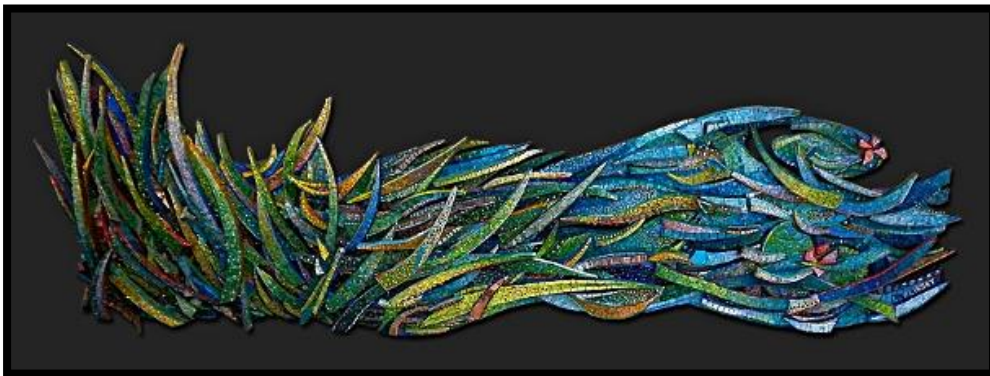




Fig 2, *Ninfe e Ninfee (Nymphs and Waterlilies)* Giulio Menossi, dynamic mosaic, 70cm x 200 cm x 13 cm, 2010

[https://www.mungbeing.com/issue\\_39.html?page=37#3104](https://www.mungbeing.com/issue_39.html?page=37#3104)

Giulio Minosi's artistic works show us that, in terms of their unique contemporary technology, they are an advanced means of artistic expression through distinctive three-dimensional mosaic works that contain different colors and different tools used, so that all of his works are distinguished by a preferred color tone determined by the method of obtaining the same color, in addition to its symbolism. And its implications as shown in (Fig 3), his works raised a hypothetical controversy through the creation of new techniques and the ability to develop and implement moving models that are not fixed on a wall in terms of wall works related to architecture. In his work, the artist followed the style called **Emblemata**. “The word "Emblemata" is simply the plural of the Greek word "Emblema", meaning a piece of inlay or mosaic, or an ornament”. (Shape a )



Fig 3, *Argentine Eye*, Oak barrel staves, smalti, glass paste, plastic, metal, and led 110 x 45 cm 2022, Giulio Menossi

<https://italiana.esteri.it/italiana/en/eventi/a-lione-in-mostra-i-mosaici-dinamici-di-giulio-menossi/>



*Shape (a), Emblema with gorgoneion. From Pompeii, the House of the Vestals (VI, 1, 7). Early 1st c. CE. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli.*

<https://blog.stephens.edu/arh101glossary/?glossary=emblema>

We note in the artwork( Fig. 4 ) the design, the picturesque, harmonious style, and the ability to fuse harmonious colors that accurately depict the abstraction of directions contained in his works. It also concretizes the philosophy of art through which the artist formulates his inner

reality and forms his ideas. We deduce from this, the purpose of the art of Menossi. It delivers beauty to the recipient and raises his eye towards the higher and the highest. This is a movement towards transcendence in the contemporary and constitutes a technological progress of stereoscopic wall works or a story told to the viewer, as the artist mentioned before. We see that contemporary 3D murals have a definite personality and independent characteristics as they are often considered an innovative way of representing everything that is outside the familiar and formation. (Fig.5)



Fig 4, Giulio Menossi-*Riflessi di Luna sul mar morto*, 2015 Mosaic medium: smalto, wood, mortar



Fig 5, Giulio Menossi "*La route de papillons*" 2011.

<https://www.mosaicslab.com/blog/gi>

Based on the

analysis of the data described above, we can confirm that the artist Giulio Minosi, as a contemporary artist, whose three-dimensional mural works express visions and creative thought to express the study of the artwork, research, scrutiny, and analysis of standards of beauty in its form and content. On the other side, how can an artist form a strong and profound bond with his creation? We must not forget the materials with which the artists must deal are so rich, beautiful, complex, and powerful that it is a joy and a pleasure just to touch and gaze at them since they are enormously rich in themselves, and each cut is a micro-piece of abstract art. (Fig6) (Rereburn, 2011)



Fig 6, color painting , Giulio Menossi called *Nocturne*, made of hand-cut pieces of glaze.2010

<https://kehkashankhalid.com/2018/11/14/some-artists-of-interest/>

## 2.1. Innovation and its impact on *Giulio Menossi's* stereoscopic mosaic designs

The artwork “ Nocturne” ( Fig 7) artist Giulio Menossi placed great importance on the use, harmony and boldness of colors and combined them with the various three-dimensional shapes of 3D mural, which ensured maximum harmony between the color contrasts.

It also affected the color contrast in the artist's paintings and this strong contrast was effected in the painting by using hot colours with cold ones. All of this is reflects the artist's style and innovation in communicating his artistic messages to the recipient through the language of the material which is in the shape of a “3D mosaic artwork”. There was also a harmonious combination of colors, shapes, lines, and directions which helped clarify his goal and his strong passion for the spirit of contemporary which is evident in his mosaic works.

From the foregoing analysis, we conclude that contemporary 3D Mosaic artwork are not just skills or technical aspects performed by the mural artist only but rather is a unique artistic experience that keeps pace with contemporary technological development in which the artist reformulates the use of technology through raw materials in innovative, sophisticated and different ways with his hands. This provides us with the ultimate contemporary artistic expression. This is not an omission of the role of skill or techniques that indicate its acquisition in the field of contemporary mural painting.

These aspects represent the molds included in the 3D mural works. If the skill merges with the nature of expression to produce an unpretentious wall artwork, then that takes place through artistic relationships that carry different, diverse, and innovative meanings.



Fig 7, "Primavera" (spring) , Giulio Menossi 2012 100 x 100 cm Smalti, glass bead, millefiori, small branches, and Lego piece.

<https://ornamentalelements.com/tag/giulio-menossi/>



## **2.2.Mural painting as an innovative philosophical vision Dino Maccini mosaic Artworks**

An Italian artist born on July 5<sup>th</sup> in the city of Piacenza was passionate about the art of ancient mosaic, but this passion pushed him to combine various materials such as marble, glass, and enamel in a visual formation that results in an advanced 3D mosaic. It was very contemporary as the experimentation prompted him to be a basic incentive in the multiplicity of vision concerning the material and the tool of its expressive and cosmetic value. The material in the works of artist Dino Maccini and the color he used formed the creative and aesthetic idea of mosaic. (Maccini, 2023)

The continuous development and prosperity that man is witnessing in various fields of architecture and arts is based on the glory of modern raw materials and their highly efficient and diverse recruitment techniques found in the vocabulary of mosaics technology that make it a scientific material that is usable in every time and place. (Abdullah, 2021)

A proficient craftsman, nowadays, working autonomously on a portative or easel mosaic, say for a show, can be seen to be an advancement in one essential regard as the artist working through an individual concept, not one conceived by the masses. It is a unique appearance, uniquely endeavouring to create a sense of the world, caught on by the few and not the numerous. Not at all like the situation a few centuries back. It is in this manner that an evolution within the expressions, a bit like portraiture or design, has advanced but that happens to be developed beneath the title of mosaic. (Goodwin, 2018)

### **2.3 The Role of Fiction in the Development of Artistic Innovation:**

Dino Maccini was able to enrich the cohesion and intertwining between his small pieces of stones of different joyful colors so that they formed vivid and beautiful images from a simple alignment. The artist was able, with his distinctive tools and creative ability, to translate the philosophies of contemporary 3D mosaics into multiple colors through cube-shaped pieces (Fig 8 )of marble, glass, or any other fixed-colored materials that can be cut and polished.

On the other hand, the development of the method and technique is evident in the work of the artist Dino Maccini in terms of the nature of the materials used, in terms of the reduced size of the pieces, and the multiplicity of colors so that the composition becomes richer. His works are also distinguished by the skill of formation and the accuracy of the artistry installation which brought out his most beautiful mural paintings.

His murals were therefore considered a breakthrough in the brightest and most innovative ways, in the numerous ways in which he has innovated and transcended established practices. His works were characterized by successive transformations in finding new entries that kept pace with contemporary technology or replaced them with what the stage required, and also of contemporary artistic concepts and tastes. Therefore, his Tri-dimensional wall works were considered the stage of a brilliant and creative breakthrough. Dino Maccini's style was considered a true expression of the love of change and departure from the ordinary and his works demonstrated this style through many beautiful 3D mosaics. Mosaic works were the contemporary formula that referred to the expressive model dominated by lines, directions, colors.



Fig 8, Dino Maccini, *L'assenza*. 172x50x38, sculpture mosaic on carbon fire, Italy.2018  
<https://www.saatchiart.com/account/profile/183012>

Through the researcher's vision, the artist created in this piece of art, through the innovative nature of the design, a key to many aesthetic uses of the material through abstraction, through various media that influenced the plastic construction of contemporary mural works, as the mural material has aesthetic, philosophical, and intellectual concepts through technological development. Who helped create artistic and plastic formulations characterized by innovation and creativity( Fig 9 )They have been drawn with more explicit and expressive lines especially because of their connection with the relations to the gaps in the artistic work. It follows from this that the materialized mosaic work has gained absolute autonomy with emphasis on ingenuity, creativity, simplicity, output, and good technique in its implementation. This has helped to achieve the goal, vision, and passion and the freedom to adapt them. Contemporary 3D models of mosaic work can be shown by shedding light on objects that are blended and executed in fine cubes.



*Fig 9, twilight reflection, Glass on other 50 x 90 x 5 D cm, Italy, 2019- Dawn of the Awakening, marble on bronze, 130 x 100 cm*

<https://www.saatchiart.com/art/Installation-L-Alba-Del-Risveglio/183012/7827178/view>

## 2.4 The interrelationship between abstraction and embodiment of 3D Mural Works

We notice the philosophical analysis in (Fig 10) of the plastic formulations. The artist was keen to achieve in his artworks in terms of the methodology of arranging 3D mosaic artwork. Shapes and lines with innovative plastic bodies in terms of size and thickness as well. The material in his designs inspired the freshness of color and texture qualities to reach the visual depth with many innovations in abstract design and it became a means through which the artist achieved his goals and artistic values. This prompted the artist to go out of the ordinary and create a variety of new and 3D forms that carry artistic and philosophical concepts of contemporary reilf formation. Mosaic art interpenetrated with new intellectual dimensions in execution. This is a requirement to express a contemporary elasticity within a vision of reilf formation mosaic art. We can deduce that a reflection of the contemporary concepts and theories flowed into mosaic art in general through the material technology which was able to reflect the contemporary technological data and a new concept of the multiplicity of technological media in it. The artist created interdependent relationships between the material and its embodiment through the aesthetics of advanced technical solutions. (Maccini, Art studio, 2023)



Fig 10, Dino Maccini *Inseparable*, cm. 49,5x 53,5  
<https://dinomaccini.it/mosaici-contemporanei-sculture/>

## 2.5 The contemporary vision of 3D mosaic works

The contemporary interpretation of mural artworks is more varied and rich in designs, expressing new ideas that reflect the characteristics of the time and its renewed rhythm. And is also in keeping up with the quick advancements in contemporary technology. According to its creators and connoisseurs, it was based on using a variety of styles and techniques. (Habiba, 2021)



Fig 11, *Warm Wind*, cm. 145×195smalt, ceramics and wood- *Revisitations*, stone, Civic  
<https://www.exibart.com/evento-arte/dino-maccini-rivisitazioni/>  
<https://mozaikowanie.pl/index.php/2019/02/09/dino-maccini-historia-nietypowa/>

The unique artwork represented *Fig11* illustrated the semantic meaning of aesthetic sense in the fluidity of design, color, and homogeneity. The artist was able to formulate the visual representation of the 3D mural artwork in terms of stylistic features, color interaction, and the purity of the effects of harmony by transcending the traditional shapes and symbols of the reilf formation murals with a new formulation that was technical, artistic and used treatments that kept pace with the contemporary and the variables of the era.

His works also reflected the means to employ the sensual abstraction in which the blend of design and shapes was inspired by nature. The impact blended with the multiplicity of its



influential dimensions and modern components which is evident. His technical prowess was also manifested at its highest pictorial levels and his apprehension of its performative senses. He was able to subjugate the material and impose on its formation and creative formulation to become an expressive and aesthetic subject. This is based on his plastic study of the design and the formation of the subject directly on the founding surface. These performances are carried out in an accurate manner that lies within the distraction of giving anthropomorphism and compatibility to the artwork that dazzles the recipient. When the art of mural painting meets the prominent and the recessed, then the overlapping of performances comes within the obsessions of contemporary experimentation. The artist succeeded in creating a state of visual dialogue through three-dimensional mosaics, as he created aesthetic diversity and creativity in his artistic trends through the use of unprecedented materials and methods despite the artistic changes, thus changing the traditional concepts and usual differences of mosaic art. He also added new standards that gave the recipient a new vision.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

We draw the following conclusions from our philosophical and technical analysis of 3D mosaic artworks, which served as our research tools.

- The desire of contemporary mural artists for to search for new aesthetic dimensions through which to present their artwork.
- There are many formulations of technical and artistic treatments in their shapes and forms for the art of three-dimensional mosaic, which has led to aesthetic and intellectual diversity that varies from one work to another.
- Three-dimensional mosaics are dealt with innovatively through many shapes, types, and characteristics.
- Scientific, industrial, and technological advancement has led to a trend toward contemporary plastic treatments of stereoscopic mosaic art.
- The diversity of media for mural works has given the mural work a vision that suits contemporary intellectual dimensions.
- Working to renew and keep pace with the development of contemporary mural works that aim to meet public taste, which constitutes an important element in plastic art.

### 4. IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Highlighting the significance of stereoscopic mosaic art in an immersive manner as well as representing how this unique technique attracts the recipient in terms of both aesthetics and functionality.
- Drawing inspiration from these world-class artists for the idea of abstraction and anthropomorphism through raw materials and technology as their works suggest originality and contemporary relevance in stereoscopic mosaics.
- Intellectual cross-pollination between abstraction and three-dimensional mosaics with the beauty of its formations.

The highly developed and widely accepted forms of plastic art are based on stereoscopic mosaic art that influences contemporary societies.

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