**Artist Statement –September 18th to November 10th 2025**

**“An assortment of art offered by Mosaic Artist, Mary Tapogna”**

Born and raised in Springfield, Ohio, I am the 8th of 9 siblings. I attended art school at The University of Cincinnati (graphic design) and graduated with a BFA in Photography from the Art Academy of Cincinnati.

Upon moving to Portland, Oregon in 1990, I worked as a freelance photographer, mainly for *The Oregonian* Newspaper. Coming directly from art school, working as a photojournalist was both educational and enlightening. Over time, I gradually began to experiment with the mosaic medium—an exploration that soon grew into exhibits and large- and small-scale commission projects.

This work led to the creation of *Hail Mary*, a storefront/gallery/studio that became an arts and community fixture in Portland for 12 years. It was a space where community, creativity, and collaboration flourished, and a destination that locals and travelers from far and wide considered special.

My mosaic work spans religious and secular portraits, crosses, rosaries, tables, lamps, and more. The portraits are constructed using found and recycled materials, layered with imagery and textures drawn from my photography and drawings. Each piece can take weeks or months to complete, depending on scale and complexity. Traditional mosaics—meticulously built from countless pieces of glass and tile—remain a source of inspiration, and I honor that tradition while incorporating contemporary, unconventional materials and subject matter.

In 2014, I completed a month-long artist residency at Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. During that time, I taught mosaic techniques and created public art that still resides on the Art Center’s front grounds. That residency sparked my love for Vermont, and in 2022 I made it my permanent home.

Today, my work can be found in both public and private collections around the world. Last year I was busy creating the new Cobleigh Library Sign in Lyndonville. It is a sparkling and elegant addition to the town of Lyndonville.

***Hail Mary Studio* continues in Vermont, open by appointment and online. Please note: 25% of all sales from this exhibit will directly benefit NVRH and its mission to provide exceptional care to our community.**

If you would like to see more of my work, I will be participating in the Vermont Crafts Council Open Studio this October 4th and 5th (*vermontcrafts.com*).
You can follow and reach me on Instagram @hailmarymosaics, and at [www.martapogna.com](http://www.martapogna.com).

— *Mary Tapogna*