

Mission Moment: Project 66

Dana Leahy



What is Project 66?

Project 66 is an ongoing artistic endeavor (by Dana) to represent each of the 66 books of the Holy Bible through a unique marriage of stained glass mosaics and carved, stained wood art.

What inspired you to create Project 66?

After watching a program (NOVA) on PBS in 2004 regarding an archaeological excavation in Zeugma, Turkey where ancient, breath-taking mosaics were unearthed after two thousand years, I became keenly interested in working with mosaics. I also longed to experience the Bible more deeply and creatively, so I decided to focus almost exclusively on glass mosaics and wood art after competing a project for the American Heart Assn. in 2005 that featured both.

Why did you choose mosaics over other art materials?

By 2005, I had worked with every other art medium there is, in addition to providing graphic art and writing services to a variety of free lance clients for over 20 years. Craving a new and challenging artistic encounter and drawn to the luminosity of stained glass, as well as the organic quantities of wood, I decided to combine the two in Project 66 and began work on my first mosaic, Genesis, in May of 2006.

What mosaic is your favorite and why?

I jokingly answer that my favorite mosaic is always the last one I completed. I, do, however, have favorites, including Romans, Lamentations and Job. These pieces are my favorites not only because of their composition and appearance but also because of the fresh insights I believe were imparted to me while creating them... and all of the 27 mosaics I've completed in the series.

How long does it take you to create one mosaic?

Each mosaic and its companion backdrop (combined) - ranging in size from 21 x 24 inches to 36 x 48 inches - take approximately 200 to 300 hours to develop, create and complete.

Who has been your biggest supporter during this endeavor?

In the nearly 14 years I've been working on Project 66, I have received generous moral support and encouragement from my husband, John, my family, my friends, and of course, my canine quality control supervisors, Ziggy, Rembrandt and Leonardo, who have been at my side every minute I've been at work in my dungeon studio. I'd like to believe and assert that my greatest support has come from the Master Artist, Creator and Source of all life and creativity.