



1020 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 733-0390 | www.phillymagicgardens.org



ABOUT ISAIAH ZAGAR

Isaiah Zagar is an award-winning mosaic mural artist whose work can be found on more than 200 public walls throughout the city of Philadelphia and around the world. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Brooklyn, Zagar received his B.F.A. in Painting & Graphics at the Pratt Institute of Art in New York City. When he was 19 years old, Zagar discovered the art environment of Clarence Schmidt in Woodstock, New York. This shaped his ideas of what art could be and inspired his work at PMG.

In the mid-1960s, Zagar and his wife Julia completed three years of Peace Corps service in Peru. Soon after, the couple settled in Philadelphia and began their lifelong work of creating public art and fostering creativity in all its varied forms. Zagar’s artwork is heavily influenced by his travels and interactions with international folk artists and other creators of art environments.

Zagar’s work is included in the permanent collections of numerous art institutions, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. He has also received grants for his artistic excellence from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pew Charitable Trusts. He has spoken about his work at several prominent conferences and artists’ lectures both domestically and internationally. Through 50+ years of creating artwork on a grand, public scale, Zagar has helped shape Philadelphia into a thriving creative community.



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

As part of our mission to inspire creativity and community engagement, PMG provides opportunities for visitors to engage with the space in unique ways:

GUIDED TOURS

Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays at 3 PM
Reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online or by phone. Group tours can be booked in advance by calling 215.733.0390 x.116.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

PECO FAMILY JAMS
Hands-on activities for all ages on the second Sunday of the month

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Interactive art experiences at local festivals and organizations

ART EXHIBITIONS
Rotating gallery shows of local and international artists fulfill aspects of the PMG mission with free public receptions

ADULT PROGRAMS
TWILIGHT IN THE GARDENS
BYOB events with live music and adult art activities

GARDEN PARTY
Happy hour with crafts and music

PRESERVATION

PMG’s preservation team works hard to keep the space beautiful and safe for you. They do everything from small repairs and replacements to large scale structural reinforcements. The team works closely with Isaiah Zagar to ensure the artwork at PMG will never stray from his vision. PMG is visited by more than 100,000 people annually. This requires the preservation team to work constantly to maintain the character of the space so it can be enjoyed by visitors for years to come.



WHY WE ASK YOU NOT TO TOUCH

Some of the artwork degrades naturally over time due to sun, wind, ice, and snow, but many parts of PMG have been damaged by people. The photo below shows how some of the tiles have been damaged over the years.

You can support PMG’s preservation efforts by leaving a donation at the box in the lobby or visiting our website. Of course, the best way to support our preservation efforts is to avoid touching or leaning on any of the artwork!



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Doily tiles in various states of destruction due to human touch

NEARBY PUBLIC ZAGAR MURALS

