



Philadelphia's **MAGIC GARDENS**

1020 South Street Philadelphia PA 19147
phillymagicgardens.org | 215.733.0390

CALL TO VIEW "LAYING THE FOUNDATION: THE ZAGARS' LIVES IN SOUTH PHILADELPHIA"

Explore the history behind the Zagars' unique mosaicked properties

WHAT:

"Laying the Foundation" invites the viewer to go behind-the-scenes of Isaiah Zagar's five fully-mosaicked sites in South Philadelphia. The sprawling public art environment at Philadelphia's Magic Gardens is Isaiah's most well-known work, but Isaiah and his wife Julia have been transforming properties into total works of art for nearly six decades.

Discover the histories of these buildings where the Zagars lived, worked, made art, and built their family since 1968. Explore how they created these spaces through never-before-seen archival material, including original photographs, historic documents, and artworks that show each site's development. The exhibition highlights Julia's folk art store the Eye's Gallery, the Zagars' current home, Isaiah's current studio, a former rental property, and Philadelphia's Magic Gardens.

WHO:

Isaiah Zagar is an award-winning mosaic mural artist who created more than 200 public walls in Philadelphia and around the world. Julia Zagar is a community leader and has been the owner of the Eyes Gallery for 55 years. Together, the Zagars have been living, working, and creating art since they were married in 1963. The three years that they spent as Peace Corps volunteers in Peru shaped their love of Folk Art and collaboration with artists that still guides their lives to this day. Both their artwork and business practices are heavily influenced by their travels and the personal connections they have made with international folk artisans, art environment creators, and visionary artists.

WHERE:

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens
1020 South Street
Philadelphia PA 19147

WHEN:

On View: May 19 – July 16, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, May 19, 2023; 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Tour & Talk with the Zagars and PMG Executive Director Emily Smith: Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA'S MAGIC GARDENS:

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens (PMG) is an immersive mixed media art environment that is completely covered with mosaics. The creator, Isaiah Zagar, used handmade tiles, bottles, bicycle wheels, mirror, and international folk art to chronicle his life and influences. The exploratory space is made up of two indoor galleries and a bi-level outdoor sculpture garden. As a nonprofit museum, PMG celebrates art in

its many forms through community outreach, public programs, hands-on activities, exhibitions, and tours. We welcome everyone to explore the space and embrace the possibility of self-expression.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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