

## STUDIO FRESCA — R. FRANCESCA DE LORME



I am an eclectic artist and multi-disciplinary designer who is drawn to working with "discarded" materials. My design experience includes digital and print graphics, architecture, residential and commercial interiors, personal fashions and jewelry.

For the last fifteen years, my primary focus has been on "artistic redesign" — reusing, recycling and re-purposing discarded resources into beautiful, interesting and useful objects. I consider myself both an artist and a designer because I'm interested in creating unique and beautiful things that can be viewed

as art pieces and which may, at times, also be useful and functional.

My process tends to be different than that of many other artists in that I work "backwards"... That is to say I usually create my concepts for finished pieces based on the materials I find, rather than coming up with a concept first then purchasing the materials with which to create it. While working with used materials in this way is often challenging, I find it very engrossing. The materials I work with tend to talk to me, (well, sing, really!) telling me just what they want to become in their next lives. This adds an element of surprise and adventure to the creative process for me, taking me in totally new and unexpected directions as some of that great, old stuff I work with takes on a fresh, new attitude.

In addition to my love of art and junk of all kinds, I am passionate about traveling, environmental sustainability, the value of good design in everyday living, recycling, excellence in, and access to, health care for everyone, advancements in medical technology, alternative healing modalities, gardening and architecture. I'm also pretty fond of dumps, salvage yards and thrift stores — and traveling! I am a bit of a tea snob and love to try good quality loose leaf teas in all sorts of flavors and blends from all over the world, but when it comes to chocolate I'm quite egalitarian — any kind, any time will do!

I create my art for the pure joy of the creative process and a deep love of working with "old and used" materials. I display my work in a variety of places to demonstrate how potentially useful, beautiful and valuable so much of the stuff that ends up in our landfills really is. Art work and fashions that I don't give away to friends, family and non-profit organizations, I sell in order to help support my commitments to the public art projects and arts in education programs I am involved in, as well as pay my graduate school fees.

My current goals are to continue to create the art I love, both individually and within the context of community, and to provide health education, communications and advocacy services to individuals and populations dealing with challenging health, social and economic conditions -- which is the focus of my graduate studies.

My mosaic and design work can be seen in a variety of art venues as well as in residences and businesses around the world. My work has been consistently selected for numerous juried art shows and exhibitions across the country, including the National Mosaic Exhibition. I do some mosaic installation work for residences and businesses, and I do occasionally accept commissions. I teach group and private classes, lead workshops and work as artist-in-residence for school and community art programs. I also sometimes create custom fashions and home décor for people and their spaces, as well as design and create unique, comfortable and functional spaces for business, retail and commercial interiors.

I have worked in graphic design, communications, marketing and PR for over 20 years and create digital art, communications materials, marketing plans and PR protocols using a wide range of media for a variety of clients. I am the former owner and founder of ARTiculate Communications & Design, LLC, a full service communications company located in Vermont. Materials my company produced have been referenced by the National Geographic Society, commended by the State of Vermont and are still in distribution. You can view some archived samples of our work at ARTiculate Communications & Design, LLC. I have been quoted in HOW design magazine, taught courses in design, marketing and writing, and advised student interns in the graphic and digital communications program at Lyndon State College in Vermont.

I also worked in journalism as a reporter, ad sale rep, assistant graphic designer and co-editor of a regional monthly arts and entertainment magazine. My reporting, essays, poetry and creative writing has appeared in numerous and varied publications for over 25 years.

In addition, through college education and work experience, I have a strong science and medical background and have worked at the Livermore Lawrence Laboratory in the Environmental Science Division and at several major medical establishments as a clinical assistant, research assistant and nursing assistant. I graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara in Environmental Sciences and Liberal Art and have multiple post-graduate credits from National University, in Education, and Goddard College in Public Health and Advocacy. I have attended literally hundreds of workshops, master's classes and advanced courses in a wide range of disciplines in the various arts and continue to do so.

I am a credentialed teacher with over 20 years teaching experience and continue to teach art on a regular, contracted part-time basis at the high school and college levels, provide artist-in-residence and mentorship services for educational institutions, as well as offer group and private mosaic instruction to individuals via a variety of outlets.