

Engagement of Glass into Mosaics: An Investigation of Glass Use in Zeugma Mosaics, Southeastern Turkey

Yaprak Tanriverdi

Adiyaman University, Vocational School, Department of Crafts, 02040 Adiyaman, Turkey

Mosaic is an art of creating design with application of pieces of mainly natural raw materials on wall and floor surfaces which has a long history dating back 5000 years. From ancient times to present, artisans have used mosaics to adorn their tombs, temples, houses, pavements, churches and cities. The designs and images produced by arranging bits and pieces of clay, stone, marble and glass have provided a vivid, and long lasting record of various cultures. Very first examples of mosaics were made of pebble and stones. The developments in techniques and employing materials enabled artists to use cut stones to make detailed and fine examples of mosaics. However, the natural stones are not sufficient to provide all colors of the nature such as the ones in Zeugma. The local stones limited the color palette of the mosaic artists; thus, artists draw on colored glass in order to obtain missing colors. Then, they created more color contented mosaics by using different colored of glasses, known as "tessera". This study aims to point out how glass and cut stones are used together in Zeugma mosaics, and which colors were gained from glass to enlighten the adventure of glass in Anatolia from the art of mosaic perspective.

Keywords: Ancient Mosaics, Glass, Zeugma, tesserae, Roman glass