

I incorporated some Islamic tile making elements, like repeated shapes, symmetry, use of white line and geometric patterns. I was inspired by the line usage in the work, "Interlaces" from the Great Mosque (Damascus); which was a stone inlay / mosaic piece from 715 CE. This reflects a sense of rhythm and movement.

I experimented a lot with this project. I was methodical in creating my design. I ran into several challenges creating this tile. The first challenge was transferring my image on to the tile. My paper sketch was larger than the tile so I had to revise my original sketch in order to transfer it onto the tile. The next challenge for me was creating the straight lines and shapes. I experimented with all the different tools in the art room; before finding a long pointed pic. I then used a straightedge to make my lines. My next obstacle was painting the glaze and trying to keep colors from not bleeding into each other; I tried to keep the lines white and the shapes a different color. I did use painters tape to tape around sections I was painting with glaze. This was very time consuming but I do like the results even though there was some spillage on the white lines, but it was minimal. The dark blue star in the center did not turn out the way I wanted it to; it is too transparent. The yellow is not transparent enough; and the green is too dark. I would have liked to see that a little more transparent too.



I like the anionic decoration and image used by this culture / society. The use of patterns of shapes, plants and flowers provides a sense of endless design of patterns; it does not contain images of people or animals like Christian iconography. Tiles with Arab qualities that are very complex. Works like the Interlaces, reflects Islamic belief that earthly forms are spiritual. The use of plants and floral motifs allows each person to interpret the spiritual meaning differently.

My work does contain some images. I did not realize that we were supposed to create an aniconic tile; This piece is a contemporary work that contains some Islamic elements along with some Native American Indian symbols that were imprinted on top of the geometric shapes. It is not arabesque either; it does have a lot of line use, but I would not say the lines aren't flowing, intertwined lines. My lines are used to emphasize the geometric shapes. I used straight lines throughout, creating geometric shapes and forms that created a complex look and feel. This piece was also glazed and it gives this work a glass like look. I used repeating shapes and lines, then colored the surface in such a way to create interest.