Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, Mayo Clinic Proceedings features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as interpreted by the author.

**Mosaic Tesserae (Stones) and Concrete Mortar**

Mosaic Tesserae (Stones) and Concrete Mortar is a sample of ancient Syrian mosaic and reflects one of the popular styles of mosaic of the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. Tesserae — or small stone cubes — were placed in geometric patterns held together by mortar and using what was called the Rainbow Style to make up “flooring.” Archeological research found such flooring in homes as well as public buildings dating from this period in time.\(^1\,^2\) Sale of these antiquities were approved by the Syrian government as long as the mosaic was intended for an academic institution.\(^2\)

The main types of materials used in these mosaics consisted of limestone, marble, slate, terracotta, and occasionally glass.\(^1\,^2\)

*Mosaic* is approximately 28 x 34-inches and consists of yellow, gray, and red tesserae on a black background. Although viewing it from above while walking on it as a floor-covering rather than from hanging on a wall would change the perspective of its
appearance, the colors, shading, and patterns provide a 3-dimensional aspect to the arrangement. One can imagine them as a series of row-houses with matching central windows on the ends.

The close-up of the image reveals the obvious painstaking effort of attaining the intended imagery by creating the individual components to achieve the matching colors and correct angles.

Mosaic was donated by the Al-Bahar family of Kuwait in honor of Dr Heidi Connolly and is located on the subway level of the Gonda Building, Mayo Clinic campus, Rochester, Minnesota.

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