**A drawing of a person

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**Call for Art - NEMS Gear Project  
Submission Deadline: January 24, 2021**

[**The Ruins Project**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uBSsAQ6uzQ) is a long-term mosaic art installation amidst the ruins of a former coal mine in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Located on the Great Allegheny Passage, this outdoor mosaic museum attracts artists, students, and travelers from all over the world.

And now, you have the chance to make a bit of history by mosaicking gears that will be installed on the gear wall at the Ruins Project! Rachel Sager, mosaic artist and owner of the Ruins Project, has agreed to dedicate a portion of the gear wall to gears mosaicked by members of the New England Mosaic Society (NEMS). NEMS will be recognized as a contributor to the project rather than individual members.

The Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation in Waltham, MA has donated twenty gears to members who can pick up the gears in Waltham; available on a first come—first served basis. Gears are also available online on Etsy.com and ebay.com, flea markets (check out the one in Hollis, NH), antique stores (not high end) , thrift shops, junk yards and perhaps even in your attic or garage.

**What you need to know:**

* Request a gear and set up an appointment to pick it up by contacting Amy Marks at [amyloumarks@gmail.com](mailto:amyloumarks@gmail.com). Pick up at 111 Riverview Avenue, Waltham, MA. Or, purchase a gear. Gears can be any size.
* Before you start your mosaic, thoroughly scrub the gear with hot soapy water. If that doesn’t take off all the grease, try some Goo Gone. Then grind or sand the backs clean so there is NO rust. Additional instructions for removing rust from metal can be found at <https://wd40.co.uk/tips-and-tricks/how-to-remove-rust>
* Attach your gear to mesh. Put a layer of plastic on your work surface. Lay your mesh over the plastic so that your mesh does not adhere to your work surface. If the gear is metal or steel, you can use thinset to adhere the gear to the mesh. If the gear is aluminum, it won’t respond well to thinset. **If you don’t know what the gear is made of, use any kind of exterior adhesive (apoxy sculpt, outdoor liquid nails, GE Silicon or the like) to attach the gear to the mesh.**
* Leave an inch or so of mesh around the outside of gear uncovered. This makes installation easier.
* **You may only mosaic on the inside of the openings of the gear.** Some gears have tiny openings that lend themselves to micro mosaic and filati. Mosaics on the gear and those that extend beyond the gear will not be accepted.
* Of course, the mosaic work needs to also be set with an exterior product. If you can use thinset, please do. However some artists have laid an entire bed down (direct technique) while others just spot adhered each piece. Both ways work fine. If your gear is small, you might consider using apoxie sculpt for entire project. It is exterior friendly.
* As with all the gears, you have full creative control. However, keep in mind the   
  **Three Rules of The Ruins:**

1.Honor what was (the history of this place is sacred. Your work will become a small part of the legacy of the coal mine)

2. Build relationships with raw material (don’t go to Michaels and buy baubles. Spend time with your material)

3. Walk the line (create thoughtful, intuitive andamento)

**Submit your application and image by January 24th by emailing it to** [**newenglandmosaicsociety@gmail.com**](mailto:newenglandmosaicsociety@gmail.com)**.**

We will provide more detailed logistics information as the submission deadline approaches.

Amy Marks, Chair, NEMS Program Committee

**How to reach out to Rachel Sager**

* **Send an email** [rachelsagermosaics@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsagermosaics@gmail.com)