



## **“Giant Star Coral” Moseleya Latistellata**

### **This Coral is on the red list of Threatened Species**

*Giant Star Coral* is found on muddy and sandy substrates and is tolerant of sediment-laden water. It lives in muddy habitats that become exposed at low tides or on the back- and fore-slope of reefs or in lagoons and is found down to depths of 10 metres. The population of *Moseleya latistellata* is decreasing. World-wide 19% of coral reefs have already been lost with a further 35% threatened with loss in the next 20-40 years. Threats to coral include ocean acidification, coral bleaching, the aquarium trade, over-fishing, destructive fishing techniques, pollution and coastal development.

*Moseleya latistellata* is a monospecific species (the only species in its genus) and belongs to the Faviidae family which has a very long evolutionary history dating back to the Jurassic period. It is a hermaphrodite, broadcast spawning coral, which means polyps have both male and female sex organs and gametes are fertilized externally. Observations of the spawning behavior found that this species releases gametes in a “vigorous” ejection of sperm and yellow eggs six days after a full moon in October or November. It is also a zooxanthellate coral obtaining energy from a symbiotic relationship with single celled algae called zooxanthellae.

Conservation in the Indo-Pacific is led by initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge and the Coral Triangle Initiative. The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by governments in Micronesia to protect 30% of near-shore marine resources across Micronesia by 2020. The Nature Conservancy is assisting this program by contributing funds and helping with the establishment of MPAs, training and the development of sound governmental policies. The Coral Triangle Initiative involves the governments of nations within the Coral Triangle, a coral biodiversity hotspot, in an effort to understand the value of the region’s marine and coastal biological resources and to develop a plan of action to sustainably conserve these resources.

### **Products and Process**

Your tile is made with Laguna EM 348 Cone 06 #8 Pressing Clay. The original was Photo-Cast® in Corian by Keith Carlson and each tile was fashioned using a hydraulic press. The tile was bisque fired to cone 04. It is glaze fired to cone 06 using Laguna’s Creatable Colors Glaze System, specifically EM2115 Old Gold, EM2120 Flaming Orange and modulated mixes of blues, greens and clear from the Creatable Colors palette.

## The Laguna Endangered Species Awareness Tile Series

Each year Laguna Clay Company selects a tile artist or company who has requested the honor to create a limited edition of 500 tiles, to be crafted with Laguna clays and glazes. The subject is always an endangered species and the finished tiles are given to a select group of customers and business associates as a gift of hope. Jim Kassebaum, former Laguna General Manager, started the series in 1992 and happily, over the course of almost 2 decades, conservation has helped some species repopulate, underlining our role as stewards of a healthy planet. The purpose of the series is succinctly expressed in this quote from Mr. Kassebaum.

*“Let us never cease to be grateful to those who established the freedoms for which our Country stands and those who have placed themselves in harm's way to guarantee those freedoms; and let us never forget how precious life on this planet is for all of its creatures.”* -Jim Kassebaum

## The Artist Who Designed the 2011 Giant Star Coral Tile

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Keith Carlson, a fully licensed architect, has been working in the medium of ceramics for several years. He holds an undergraduate degree in architecture from Pratt Institute and a graduate degree in architecture from The Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-ARC). Mr. Carlson founded the company *Carlson Studio* as a response to the need for designers to incorporate an easily customizable and durable finish material into their projects.

Keith's innovation in the tile making process combines cutting edge technology, with the tradition of hand pressing tiles. Keith was granted a patent by the United States Patent Office in 2009 for Photo-Cast®, a process which takes any two dimensional image and creates a highly detailed low relief tile from it. This versatile approach produces a new aesthetic quality in ceramic tiles and Photo-Cast® was the process used to create the “Star Coral” tile model.

*Carlson Studio* has been recognized with numerous design awards as well as coverage in the media for its ground breaking techniques and innovations. *Carlson Studio's* tiles have appeared in publications such as Architectural Record, Metropolis, A+U, Business Week, and How magazine. He has been the recipient of the “Good Design Award”, as well as a finalist in the “Saatchi and Saatchi Award for World Changing Ideas”. Keith is also involved with the “DaVinci Awards”, a non-profit organization recognizing innovations in assistive technologies for persons with disabilities.