

July 9, 2025

Mosaic

Mosaic is the art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of colored glass, stone or other materials. The earliest known examples of mosaics made of different materials were found at a temple building in Ubaid, Mesopotamia and are dated to the second half of the 3rd millennium BCE. They consist of pieces of colored stones, shells and ivory.

Similar mosaics have been found in the Americas dating at least 250 CE (and possibly before) in the Maya civilization, where the art form was developed independently.

(Excerpt taken from <https://mosaicartgallery.com/history-of-mosaics/>)



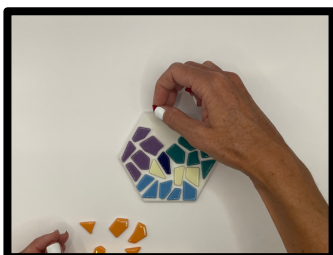
Let's Learn to Mosaic

Materials:

- ceramic tile
- glass mosaic tiles
- glue
- grout
- squeegee
- sponge
- gloves
- plastic spoon

Process:

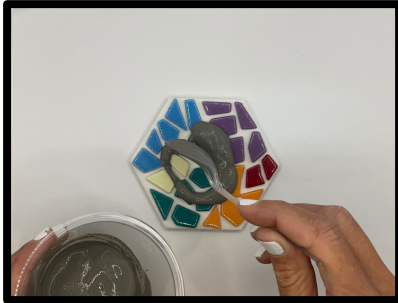
1. Find a comfortable space to work and pour out all your materials.
2. Pour the tiles from your little bag and sort – by color or by shape.
3. Take a damp paper towel and wipe off the ceramic tile and the glass mosaic tiles. You will notice that the mosaic tiles have a rough side and a shiny side. The rough side should be glued to the ceramic tile.



4. When your ceramic tile is dry, position your glass tiles onto it and create a design. Don't glue them just yet. Get everything settled before committing to the glue. Feel free to leave space between the tiles or keep the design tight.
 - a. The true gift of mosaic is being patient. It's essentially a puzzle that requires some problem solving. Take your time and know that you will probably have to rearrange a couple of times.

5. Glue your tiles on to the base. Wait about an hour after gluing before you grout your tile.

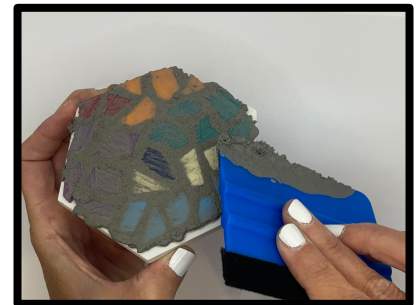
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6. Put on your protective gloves and open up your plastic cup that has grout. Put 1 tsp of water into the cup and stir it up. The mixture should be fairly wet but not super runny. If it is not wet enough, add just tiny amounts of water until you get the desired result.

7. Take your plastic spoon and put the grout/water mixture onto the ceramic tile.

8. Make sure you have some paper towels or something protective for your surface. Use your squeegee to push the grout into all of the empty space between the glass tiles. Keep moving it around and add more grout if needed. Use your squeegee to level it out.



9. Let the grout sit for a few minutes. Take your sponge, get it wet and then squeeze out all the water so that the sponge is damp. Using circles, gently sponge the tile, removing the grout from the glass tiles. They will still have a slight film on them.



10. Wait about 20 minutes and sponge again, using the same technique. The tiles may still have a slight film.

11. Wait about an hour and then sponge again. You should be able to get the tiles completely clean at this point. You're done!

12. Be proud of your creation and bring it back to Old Town Square next Wednesday so that we can hang it up for all of Fort Collins to see!

Follow us on Instagram @nola_creative_company as we will be featuring artwork from each week. We will not use full names or identify your children in any way other than using their first name in order to give credit.

About the Art for the Heart Program

Art for the Heart is a program of the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority and NOLA Creative Company.

All returned projects will be displayed in our outdoor kiosk located in between Coopersmith's Pub and Poolside restaurants. All projects will be returned to you the following week after they have been displayed.

Each art project returned will earn you a punch on our "Frequent Artists" punch card. Artists with consistent participation (5 punches or more) will be awarded a t-shirt at the end of the program.

You can find all of our past projects and more information about the program at <https://downtownfortcollins.org/art-for-the-heart/>

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