

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE08596: MOSAICS – MATERIAL EXPLORATION

Tutor: VANESSA BENSON

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 15 MARCH – SUNDAY 17 MARCH

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course aims to introduce the qualities of mosaics that distinguish it from other media, and how those can be explored. Mosaics may be used in many different contexts such as interior or garden design, as clothing of architecture or sculpture, and as fine art or decoration. It is a very tactile as well as visual medium and has the potential to include a wide range of materials. We aim to look at these qualities that materials contribute to the work; you will be encouraged to explore them in a creative and supportive environment.

In this short course, you will have an opportunity to play with materials and discover how they affect each other as neighbours and collaborators. You will be working on your individual projects adhering materials directly onto a base. You may wish to follow a design, or allow the materials to suggest ideas to you, taking a more intuitive approach. You will be able to recognise and choose which style(s) to work in. Copying mosaics is not encouraged, as one of the aims of this course is to interact imaginatively with the materials and the medium as well as learning a set of skills. You will have an opportunity to practice using the hammer and hardy to break up stone, as well as other tools such as tile nippers for more regular materials.

By the end of the course, you will be able to work independently on projects using the direct method, distinguish a number of different styles commonly used in the medium, and research and develop ideas for further projects. This course offers opportunity to all, for the beginner to discover, and those with some experience the space and support to develop their skills, in this creative environment.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Vanessa Benson has been practicing mosaics for over 30 years. Trained in Italy, she is an experienced teacher and has run a number of community projects. She works predominantly with stone.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 15 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. On the first evening, students will be introduced to materials and tools, and do a cutting exercise involving making wedge shapes to form a curve.

Other days: Saturday 16 March

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes

Other days continued: Saturday 16 March

3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored

Departure day: Sunday 17 March

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish, please vacate workshop by 3.30pm
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

No required preparation is necessary; however if there are some materials you have collected that you think may be suitable please bring them. If you would like to bring your own base to work on different to the one we provide please do so. Also bring ideas for designs.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

The course fee includes a pack of mosaic tiles, grout and a base.

Additional charge:

On this course the tutor will supply some of the materials. Monies should be paid to the tutor before the end of the course, by cash or cheque.

Available from the Shop:

A range of vitreous and unglazed tiles will be available for purchase

Available from the tutor:

A limited range of Smalti glass, stone, and unspecified material will be available for purchase from the tutor.

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

Materials that you think may be of interest for you to use, including recycled material such as found material, stone etc...

Plastic containers to hold your cut pieces

Plastic lids for the glue

Apron

Bubble rap or box for taking work away

Ideas for designs

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.