

Art and Design

Senior 2 ART AND DESIGN

Project Theme: Decorative arts

Topic: Multimedia: Mosaic art

Introduction

Mosaic is a branch of visual arts. It is an area that allow you to use almost any material to create a decorative artwork. Mosaic is done using a similar discarded material, or found items from the environment. These may be banana fibers, broken glasses, or broken floor tiles. There are many advantages when you use discarded or found items. These materials:

- Incur little or no cost
- Are always readily available
- Encourage re-use or recycling
- Are generally environment-friendly, and make you environmentally aware
- Give you the opportunity to be creative in finding, exploring and using materials.

Why make Mosaic art?

As a student of art and design, you need to be creative as you produce unique artworks to compete in the modern world. You have to practice the creative use of found and recycling of materials to produce something new and also to responsibly make use of the environment.

Resources

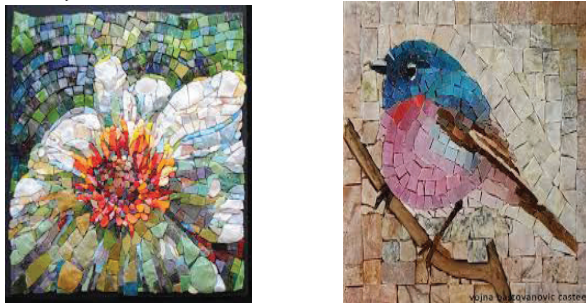
You will need:

- Note book, pencils, coloured pencils
- Paper, hard paper, glue, strings, cutters
- Any found or discarded materials or objects-ends of paper, broken tiles, stones, beads, leaves, seeds
- Paints and brushes if possible
- Computer with internet if possible

Mosaic Making Process

The process is formed by setting small pieces of a **similar material** on a firm base. Common materials used include stone, ceramic tiles, glass, beads, or wood. These materials are not easily bent like paper or fabric. They must be cut or broken to fit the design, or be used in their original shape and size. Different tools

and adhesives are required to separate or unite these materials. Look at figure 2.1 to study the materials used in a composition.



2.1 Figure showing examples of Mosaic art

Mosaic Techniques

Mosaic is similar to collage but due to the nature of materials used they slightly differ. The common techniques include:

Variation=the use of different shapes, sizes, and colour schemes of your pieces that adds interest.

Gradation=the subtle shifts in an element of art, for instance, the use of colour to vary its tones, or the increase in the size of shapes used in a design.

Creating shapes, patterns and motifs. These thoughtful use of multiple pieces to create lines and shapes that generates movement within the work. The more pieces you use the more possible it is to have a motif in your design.

Like any art work mosaic art is based on the three parts of: Subject, Composition and Content. The elements and principles of art are used as a vehicle to realise the project.

Key term

Motif: the main element or repeated symbol in an artwork

Step 1. Research on what you intend to do. Find out about something either by interviewing your parents, reading art books or using a computer with internet. Having prior information before is very key. Make a plan of translating your ideas or imaginations into tangible work of a sketch. Have a reason as to why you want to create the collage work.

Have you got an idea of what you want to do? Sometimes you will have so many ideas but you have to pick the most interesting one after sketching.

2. Select the topic/theme or brief

- Choose a topic or theme (if not given) that is simple to design.
- Create more than one drawing to open up your imagination.

3. Create the design

From your research and sketching, select drawings you have made based on the theme or subject you will use.

4. Transfer the design

- Reproduce your design drawing on the base.
- Draw out the objects you wish to represent in simplified lines to ease the application of the hard material.

5. Create the artwork

- Cut out your material into small pieces. Use adhesives to hold the pieces as you build up the design. Follow the contours of your lines as you create the images.

6. Finish the art work

- See that all edges are well stuck. Again, work carefully to avoid glue or paint where they are not needed. Keep flat and in a dry place, pinned to a flat surface, and allow to dry for some minutes.

7. Present the art work

People at home will be curious to see what you have done. Present your work to them and receive their criticism to help you improve the next project.

Create

Task: Based on the theme "Roundness" design and create a mosaic art using found and or discarded materials. When you are done, invite your parents to take a look. Provide a page for them to make comments about your artwork. Keep these safely as in future they can become a source of inspiration for your art.

Reflection: Mosaic and Collage art have similarities and differences. What identifies them?



Examples of mosaic art