

## WORKSHOP: "MOSAIC ON GLASS"



**Summary:** Participants create a design on a glass vase by attaching glass drops, tile fragments and stones with clear hot glue or silicone. The spaces and edges of the design are then filled with grout and cleaned off the design surface.

### Materials and Equipment:

glass vase or jar  
glass drops  
colourful pebbles (optional)  
scrap tile and china pieces (optional)  
found objects (optional, not provided)  
grout  
glue gun and glue  
coated gloves  
scrap cardboard for glue drips  
optional: acrylic paints  
optional: plastic lids or foil for palettes  
sheet of plastic to cover your work surface

sketch paper  
pencil, eraser, sharpener  
carbon paper  
masking tape  
sponge  
t-shirt scraps  
foam brush  
disposable gloves x3 pair  
instructions/ideas sheet  
optional: paint brushes  
optional: plastic knife

### Class Plan:

1. Wash your glass vase or jar with warm soapy water and dry to remove any residue.
2. Create a pattern for your design or work free form.



- a. Draw an outline of an interesting shape on a piece of paper e.g. a hot air balloon, random shape or heart.
- b. Cut the shape out of your paper carefully keeping the outside intact. This will be used as a stencil, taped onto your vase where you would like your design.



3. Plan the placement of your glass, pebbles and tile scraps.
  - a. Place your stencil on your table and arrange your objects in a pleasing way in your design.



- b. Leave about 1/8" space between objects and around the edge to fill with grout.
4. Transfer your design onto your vase:
  - a. Tape your stencil to your vase, where you would like your design.



5. Using clear hot glue or clear silicone, attach the pieces of your design (glass, pebbles etc.) to your vase in the layout you planned, filling in the space of your stencil.



- a. Clear adhesive is used because the glass pieces are translucent and clear adhesive will let the light through and not show (view from the back of the design shown below).



6. When your glue or silicone is dry, apply a layer of premixed grout to your design with a palette knife and damp sponge.
  - a. We recommend wearing gloves while working with grout to protect your skin.
  - b. Use the sponge and foam brush to smooth the grout into place and create a tapered edge around the outside.



- c. DO NOT RINSE GROUT DOWN YOUR DRAIN! It will solidify in the drain and block it.
  - d. Rinse tools, sponges and clothes with grout on them in a separate bucket and discard outside.
7. Allow the grout to dry (about 4 hours) enough that it doesn't smear when wiping. Carefully wipe the surface of the design pieces (glass, pebbles, etc.) with a damp sponge and damp t-shirt scraps.



- a. If you can't clean off your grout in 4 hours, it can be done the next day. It will just take more scrubbing to remove the film from the glass pieces. Using the tip of a plastic knife can help if needed.



- When your grout is completely dry, polish the surface of the objects in your design with the t-shirt scraps.



- Optional: Paint your grout with acrylic paint.



- Optional: A sealant can be applied to the surface of your grout if desired, but this isn't essential.

#### **Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:**

- If your grout is flaky a small amount of water can be added. Don't add too much water and avoid a soupy mixture.
- If you want to cover your entire vase with design, you can grout the surface in sections or hold the vase from the inside while working if it is wide enough for a hand to fit inside.
- It is possible to paint the surface of your grout when it is dry although repeated heavy washing may cause it to wear over time.

#### **Trouble Shooting:**

- If your grout is very dry when you come to clean the film of grout off your design objects, use the more abrasive side of the sponge gently to remove the film.
- Oil and grease on the surface of your glass can make it harder for the grout to stick. Clean objects thoroughly with soap and water first.

- If you aren't happy with how your grout worked out, it can be scraped with a file to remove lumps. More grout can be applied over top.
- We don't recommend mixing paint with your grout to colour it because it changes the consistency of the grout and it may not set properly.