

# RECYCLED MOSAIC

## INTRODUCTION

**Make a mosaic using recycled ceramic objects.**

This lesson is inspired by Alicia Piller's *Blood and Breath*, featured in the exhibition *Flesh of the Forest*—an **assemblage** of objects from the artist's personal archive and from the Los Angeles landscape.



*Example of found object mosaic.*

## VOCABULARY

- **Found object art:** Artwork that transforms man-made items by recontextualizing them as art.
- **Assemblage:** Sculpture made by assembling, or putting together, various found objects.
- **Repurpose:** to adapt something for a new use or purpose.
- **Adhere:** to stick firmly to something, often by way of glue.

## MATERIALS

- Wooden or ceramic panel
- Found ceramic objects to repurpose (Plates, bowls, abandoned art pieces)
- Hammer
- Wash cloth
- Hot glue gun
- Sanded grout
- Disposable plastic container
- Nitrile gloves
- Cut resistant gloves (optional but recommended)
- KN95 Mask
- Hand wipes or paper towels
- Putty knife
- Mixing stick

## STEPS

- 1** Collect ceramic objects that you would like to **repurpose** into a mosaic. These can be plates, bowls, or abandoned art pieces from your own home or purchased from a thrift store.
- 2** Wrap the ceramic object in a washcloth or towel. Wear goggles and cut-resistant gloves. If you do not have cut-resistant gloves, handle ceramic shards with care.
- 3** Break the object using a hammer. After each swing with the hammer, open the cloth to remove any pieces that are ready for your mosaic. Then wrap it back up and keep breaking the remaining pieces down.
- 4** Once you have enough tiles to make your mosaic, start arranging them onto your wooden or ceramic panel.
- 5** Use hot glue to **adhere** your mosaic tiles to the panel.
- 6** Now you are ready to complete the mosaic by applying grout. Move to an outdoor space and put on a KN95 facemask, nitrile gloves, and goggles because grout is toxic if the dust is inhaled.
- 7** Bring out a disposable plastic cup or bucket and hand wipes or paper towels. Grout will clog your sink, so during this process you will need to wipe your hands & throw away the wipe rather than rinsing in the sink.
- 8** Pour a little bit of grout into your container. Slowly add water while mixing, until the grout is the consistency of brownie batter. Use the putty knife to apply grout into all the cracks between your mosaic tiles. Periodically, wipe the surface of the tiles with a wet paper towel, because the grout dries quickly. Continue mixing, grout as needed.
- 9** When you are finished, throw away grout container and all paper towels.

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