



## Mosaic Art

**Topic Area:**

**Art**

**Duration:**

**45-60 minutes**

**Difficulty Level:**

**Easy-medium**

### Objectives:

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Analyze a work of art to understand style, technique, and the artist's message.
- Describe mosaic art and various techniques.
- Plan and create a unique mosaic using paper, sticker cardstock, and additional supplies.

### Suggested Materials:

- Digital or print works of mosaic art.
- Plain copy paper
- Construction paper, plain and/or patterned cardstock, sticker cardstock, magazine pages etc.
- Other materials such as foam, felt, fabric, etc.
- Pencils, rulers, stencils
- Glue stick or other adhesive
- Modge Podge
- Sponge brush
- Cricut Maker 3 or Explore Air 3
- Fine-point blade
- Device with Cricut Design Space installed
- StandardGrip mat



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## Background:

- What is mosaic art? Where did it originate? In this session, participants will learn about mosaic artwork, be able to describe it, and plan and create a mosaic of their own. Using pieces created with the Cricut Maker 3 or Explore Air 3, instructors can prepare and conduct this activity with less time than typically required. **Tip:** Create the pieces to be used in the mosaic art prior to the session to save time and provide participants with a variety of options upfront.

## Introduction:

- Show participants the video tour of [Philadelphia's Magic Garden](#). You can also share different works of art instead or in addition to the Magic Garden art.
- Ask participants to respond to the following questions:
  - How would you describe this work of art? What techniques and materials did the artist use? What kind of style does it have?
  - What message, mood, emotions, etc. do you think the artist is trying to convey through this work of art?
  - What questions or wonderings do you have about this work of art?
- Engage participants in a discussion about their analysis of the Magic Garden.
- Explain that one of the main techniques that the artist Isaiah Zagar uses is mosaic design. A mosaic is a type of art that is made by laying small pieces of colored materials on top of a surface to create pictures or patterns. The materials used can be 3-dimensional or two dimensional and can be anything from glass, common materials, paper, and more. Mosaic art has been around for thousands of years dating back to the 5th BCE century.
- After discussing the artwork and the origins of the Mosaic style, have participants think about the artwork from a new perspective. Ask them to reflect on the mosaic and



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consider what they liked about the work and what characteristics or styles might they bring into their own mosaic design.

## Session Activity:

- Have all materials available to participants at the start of the activity to help provide them with inspiration for their product. Design and cut materials like cardstock, sticker cardstock, felt, foam, fabric, etc. using the Cricut Maker 3. Be mindful of the final size of each piece and create many different shapes and sizes to provide variety. You can even acquire other materials to incorporate into the mosaic including beads, buttons, bottle caps, stones, etc. for a mixed media mosaic.
- Provide participants with scrap paper to sketch out a design for their mosaic art. They can even use colored pencils to help plan out what the final design will look like.
- When each person is satisfied with their plan, provide them with a sturdy cardstock or canvas to mount their design on and allow them to get to work. Use the appropriate adhesive for the mediums used.
- After the design has been finalized, apply a layer of Modge Podge to the surface to seal the design and make it sturdier. A touch of glitter can be mixed in to give a glimmering surface. Set the mosaics aside to dry completely and place them around the room.

## Closing:

- Have participants do a gallery walk and observe each other's work. Participants can write down comments on post-it notes and leave them for each artist to consider. Engage participants in a discussion about the mosaic technique now that they have created their own. Ask them to discuss what method techniques worked best and what they liked or disliked about the mosaic technique.





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## Reflection:

- Take the feedback from the gallery walk activity and reflect on how you would improve your artwork in the future and what you love about your mosaic.

## Extensions and Customizations:

- Dive deeper into a discussion or mini-lesson on mosaic artwork. Explore famous mosaic artists, stylistic movements, political and cultural movements, history or circumstances of the period in which specific art was created, etc.
- For individuals needing more work on fine motor skills, you can also use the Cricut to cut the materials into strips for participants to cut themselves with scissors, perforate all of the shapes for them to punch or tear out, or use score lines or drawn shapes to show them where to cut.

## Resources:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU0oHxuKzsY&t=76s>
- <https://narmassociation.org/narm-member/philadelphias-magic-gardens/>
- <https://savingplaces.org/distinctive-destinations/philadelphias-magic-gardens>
- <https://www.mozaico.com/blogs/news/the-most-famous-mosaic-artists>
- <https://www.britannica.com/art/mosaic-art>

## Template Links:

Basic Mosaic Shapes:

<https://design.cricut.com/landing/project-detail/6644afa223358afa4d28fda8>