

A mosaic is a piece of art or image made from the assembling of small pieces of coloured glass, stone, or other materials. It is often used in decorative art or as interior decoration. Most mosaics are made of small, flat, roughly square, pieces of stone or glass of different colours, known as tesserae



Laurel True, True Mosaics Studio has been creating public, architectural and commissioned work for over 25 years. True is a prolific artist known for her vibrant style, her combinations of intriguing materials and her global creative activism. True's work can be found in public spaces, hospitals, parks and commercial and residential settings around the world.

## 5 r's of Sustainability.

**Recycle** - Take an existing product that has become waste and re-process the material for use in a new product.

**Reuse** - Take an existing product that's become waste and use the material or parts for another purpose, without processing it.

**Reduce** - Minimise the amount of material and energy use during the whole of a products life cycle.

**Refuse** - Don't accept a product at all if you don't need it or if its environmentally or socially unsustainable.

**Rethink** - Our current lifestyles and the way we design and make.



## Pollution in our oceans

In England, it is estimated that annually we use 4.7 billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds. An estimated 10% of cotton buds are flushed down toilets and can end up in waterways and oceans.

Even though non-plastic alternatives are readily available, these single-use plastic items are used for just a few minutes but take hundreds of years to break down. Cleaning up the effects of littering costs local Government millions of pounds every year.

In order to eliminate these items from use, the Government intends to introduce a ban on their distribution and sale. The ban would come into force at some point between October 2019 and October 2020



## History of Mosaics

Mosaics have a long history, starting in Mesopotamia in the 3rd millennium BC. Pebble mosaics were made in Tiryns in Mycenaean Greece; mosaics with patterns and pictures became widespread in classical times, both in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.

Mosaic art continued to flourish in Roman times. There are many sites in Europe today that still have examples of mosaic floors from Roman times. This is a testament to the durability of the material and the art. Romans also used decorative mosaics for walls, fountains and more.



## Stages of creating a mosaic.

1. Draw out a design that has bold outlines similar to a cartoon simplistic drawing as they are the most effective onto a surface eg. wooden board that can take the weight.
- 2) Decide what size mosaic tiles are most appropriate for the level of detail in the design (don't use large tile pieces to make details that are tiny"). Lay a few tiles down just to make sure the colours look right together.
3. Using tile adhesive stick the tile pieces down one at a time leaving very small gaps between each tile. It is the gap that creates the mosaic.
- 4)After the adhesive dries for more than 24 hours, Grout the mosaic with regular tile grout. Grout fills in the gaps to complete the mosaic. It must be applied carefully and precisely filling the gaps entirely to create a smooth waterproof surface.
- 5)Because we are reusing old tiles sometimes the colours may not be accurate to you design you have planned so to complete the mosaic I need to paint the tiles using acrylic paint.
6. Use PVA glue or varnish to achieve a waterproof coating and gives all times a shiny gloss finish.