

# Teaching and Learning in Art Education 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed

Cultivating Students' Potential from Pre-K through High School

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## Mural Wall Mosaics Directions

(Check with a tile expert to match products and procedures with the types of wall surfaces.)



- 1. Design the Shape of the Mosaic:** Students will draw the shape of the desired image on wax paper. Then they will place a piece of screen on top of it and tape the wax paper and screen to a board.
- 2. Creating Tile Designs:** Students will arrange the tiles face up in desired patterns on top of the screen. They will leave a small amount of even space between each tile for the grout.
- 3. Pour the Glue Mixture:** Once the pieces are in place, students will pour water-downed school glue between the cracks. The glue will harden overnight and form a thin layer to hold the tile pieces together on the screen. Once it is dry, students will remove the remaining wax paper and trim away excess screen.
- 4. Attach the Mosaic to the Wall:** Students will mix a thick consistency of thinset and spread it on the back of the mosaic forms (to the screen background) with a grout squeegee or trowel. Once the tiled form is saturated with thinset, students will apply it to the wall and press down firmly until it bonds into place.
- 5. Grout:** The next day, once the thinset has dried, students will add grout between the cracks. The grout should have a peanut butter consistency. If the grout is too thin it will drip down the wall and leave a chalky residue that is difficult to clean. Students can use a vinegar and water mixture to remove this residue before it dries fully.

Artist figure with mosaic details. Fifth and sixth grade students. USA. Author, teacher. Pamela McColly, photo.