

COURSE DETAILS – WEEKEND WE0317

TITLE: MOSAICS USING MARBLE AND NATURAL STONE

TUTOR: MARTIN CHEEK

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

AIMS OF COURSE:

To introduce students to the ancient technique of making mosaics using natural stone.

This course aims to provide an opportunity for those who have previously made some mosaics and therefore have some experience in mosaic making. It aims to teach the basic skill of cutting and nibbling marble and natural stone into mosaic tesserae. Those with some experience can expand on existing skills and develop a personal style and creativity. The course instructs further in direct and indirect mosaic techniques, using marble and natural stone.

Grouting techniques are also covered.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD ACHIEVE:

During the course you design and make a mosaic approx. 20 x 20 cm in area.

Students can either work direct – stick the tesserae down onto a wooden panel with glue OR they can work indirect – upside down on a flat surface, to create a FLAT mosaic paving slab. The marble is POLISHED – which means that if the tesserae are placed polished side down then the finished slab will be flat and polished.

Numerous techniques are covered to help you understand further about mosaic design.

Many previous participants have gone on to become professional mosaicists whilst others have taken it on as a serious hobby.

MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES COVERED:

How to use a hammer and hardie to cut and nibble the marble into tesserae.

Making a mould for casting up a mosaic slab.

Casting up a mosaic slab.

Grouting a mosaic slab.

By the end of the course a combination of lectures on Roman techniques, demonstrations and individual help ensures that students go home fully inspired and equipped to go and tackle larger projects such as patios, tables and murals.

TEACHING METHOD:

Through a series of demonstrations the tutor explores various Roman techniques and shows exactly how the tesserae are cut and laid. These different 'opus' are what will give your mosaic individuality personality and style.

In a group session everyone's designs are looked at, showing how these different design treatments can be applied to your designs. Once a design has been agreed, mosaic making will then begin.

EVENING SESSIONS:

First evening session – attendance is an essential part of the course:

Martin gives a lecture on his own work. He has been making mosaics for 25 years and will show images of his own mosaics including a recently finished Barbados floor from Sugar Hill Barbados.

You can see Martin's work on his website: www.martincheek.co.uk, where you can also see examples of his mosaics made using marble and natural stone in the Roman style.

Other optional evening activities:

Workshop is open until 10pm – students may work untutored if they wish.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Day 1: Explanation and demonstration of mosaic terms and techniques showing how use of certain techniques affects your mosaic. Discussion of your mosaic designs. After lunch you will start making your mosaic and continue until the end of the day.

Day 2: You will continue with your mosaic. The tutor is on hand to offer advice and support. Demonstration of grouting techniques.

STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COURSE IF ANY:

It would be really useful if you could bring with you two or ideally three design ideas for your mosaic. Try to make your ideas different from each other, so that we are able to discuss the various mosaic possibilities, which your designs will suggest to me. If you wish to make a slab then ideally your designs should be 8 x 8 inches (20 x 20 cm), if you want to finish and cast up your mosaic slab during the course.

If you are working direct – i.e. NOT casting up – simply sticking the marble down onto a wooden panel then ideally your designs should be no bigger than 12 x 12 inches (30 x 30 cm), if you want to finish your mosaic during the course.

Keep your designs simple and bold – remember that the tesserae average 1 cm x 1 cm in size so don't make your design too fiddly! A quick glance at any of my books will show you what I mean, but please don't copy my mosaics – you could do that at home!

If you don't have time to prepare any designs before the course, then try and bring some sort of pictorial reference with you. This could be anything from a book to a greetings card that you like or even a piece of wrapping paper or packaging that may have caught your eye. They have a really good reference library at West Dean, but as you can gather, I am trying to save you valuable time on the first day.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

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MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ON PRACTICAL COURSES YOU MAY WELL NEED TO PURCHASE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE TO COMPLETE PROJECTS.

Each student is provided with a hammer and hardie to use for the duration of the course. There will also be a large range of beautifully coloured marble which students can purchase.

These items will be on sale from Martin Cheek:

Material	Approx Price
Polished Marble and Natural Stone Slabs 30cm x 30cm	£7.50 per slab
Polished Marble and Natural Stone Pre-Cut into strips 30cm x 1cm approx	£15.00 per kg
Lepponit Wheel Nippers	£20.75
Side Biter Nippers	£10.75
Glue Pens	£0.75 each or 3 for £2.00
Mesh	£5.00 per sq.m
MDF Boards	As marked

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

A pair of your own glasses or sunglasses will mean that you won't have to suffer uncomfortable safety goggles.

Your own tweezers are a good thing to have.

A camera is always a useful thing to bring.

COURSE TIMETABLE (unless otherwise stated above or agreed with the tutor during the course)

Course timetable for 2–9 day courses – each course starts with a welcome session on the first evening of the start date of the course and is followed by 2–9 days depending on the length of the course.

Arrival Day	From 4.00pm 7.00 8.15–9.15	Arrival for residential students. Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner. Dinner. First teaching session.
Daily Timetable	9.15am 10.30 12.45pm 2.00pm 3.30 5.00 7.00 8.15	Morning classes. Coffee. Lunch. Afternoon classes. Tea. Classes finish. Dinner. Evening working – students may have evening access to certain workshops in the absence of their tutor, but only with their tutor's permission and provided it is safe to do so.
Departure – last day	10.00am 3.00pm 3.30	Residential students are asked to vacate rooms. Classes finish. Tea then departure.