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Get creative with mosaic

tools of the trade

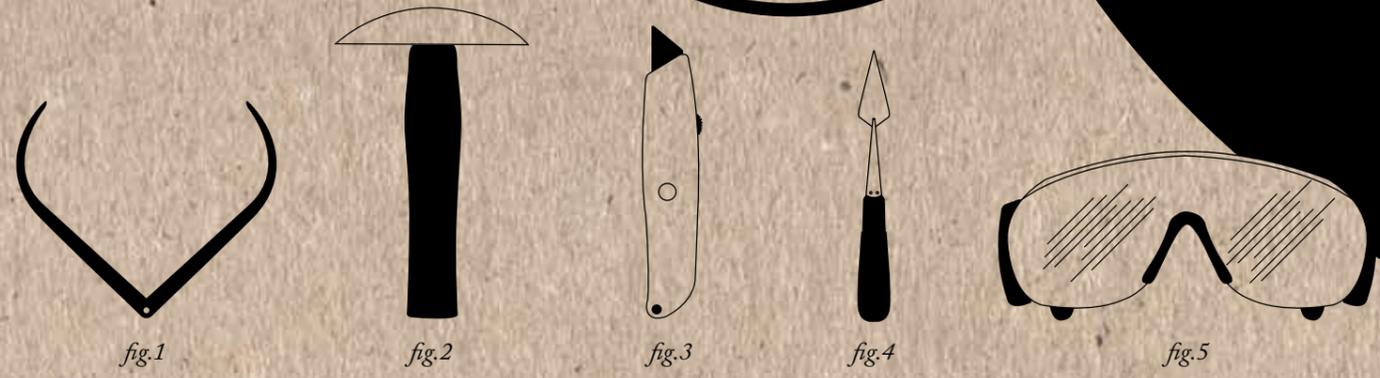
fig.1 Tweezers

fig.2 Mosaic hammer

fig.3 Stanley knife

fig.4 Pallet knife

fig.5 Safety goggles



Spier Arts Academy offers employment-based training in professional mosaic, providing teaching by the best international tutors. This three-year full-time programme focuses on Mosaic Art, but also includes tuition in *Drawing, Art History, Ceramics and Business Skills*. The Academy is administered by Spier Architectural Arts and specialises in collaborative and experimental work with world-renowned artists and architects, making it the only one of its kind in South Africa.

The Academy provides a vibrant learning environment that explores the art form of mosaic and develops the practical and technical expertise and creative spirit of all learners.

What is mosaic art?

Mosaic is the ancient art of creating images on a surface using a combination of materials of varying sizes to create a final work of art. Small pieces of materials - smalti, ceramics, glass and stones - totalling hundreds or even thousands - are used to form a final composition that can be recognised as a specific pattern or picture.

A highly versatile art form, mosaic art can be applied to a wide range of surfaces from walls, to floors, to table-tops. Mosaic art is extremely durable and can be applied both indoors as well as outdoors, adding to the colour and vibrancy of any space.

What is employment-based training?

Employment-based training combines a structured theory component with work practice. Apprentices learn professional art practices by working on real-world projects, learning to scale, quantify and systematically manufacture large mosaic pieces over a period of time.

The idea is that apprentices learn the 'ins and outs' of mosaic art by applying all the aspects under the guidance of an experienced and qualified mosaic master. In order to become qualified themselves, apprentices will be assessed against industry standards.

The employment-based environment provides an interdisciplinary learning opportunity that enables trainees to rapidly expand their knowledge in a setting that promotes networking with professionals, tutors and their peers.

Apprentices take pride in working alongside acclaimed artists on this specialised course. They are inspired by visiting artists who share insights, new techniques and their working practices.

What will I be learning?

At the Academy you will be trained in the art of mosaic through collaboration on real-life, large-scale architectural pieces with prominent local artists. Working against production deadlines requires the studio to operate professionally, where apprentices gain valuable industry experience.

The Academy teaching approach is applied. Mosaic art depends on effective team collaboration, where apprentices learn a variety of approaches from masters in their fields and soon develop their own work methodologies. Apprentices are encouraged to work more and more independently, with tutors playing the role of advocates and good soundboards.

Focusing on **Practical Mosaic**, you will spend the bulk of your day in the studio gaining valuable hands-on experience in interpreting designs into thousands of pieces of tesserae (Latin term for the small pieces of material used in a mosaic artwork). **Mosaic Applied Theory** will demonstrate various mosaic fabrication techniques and develop your technical knowledge and mathematical skills.

You will improve your **Drawing** skills and **Mosaic Theory** will teach you colour theory and material knowledge. In **Art History** lessons you will gain a sound knowledge of the history of art in a global and local context. A fair amount of numeracy and computer skill is developed in **Business Skills**, where you will learn what it takes to run your own successful studio after graduation.

How do I apply?

You can apply at the Spier Arts Academy should you meet the following criteria:

- Are you willing and able to commit full-time (8am – 5pm daily) for three years?
- Do you have a passion for the arts, work well in a team and have a lust for life?
- Is your Mathematical understanding good (algebra / calculations)?
- Is your English good (read, write and understand)?
- Are you a South African citizen or do you have the relevant documents to work in SA?

What are the perks?

ACADEMY FACILITIES

Apprentices have access to a fully equipped mosaic and ceramic studio, classrooms and computer lab with internet.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Academy excursions to art studios, galleries, museums and art libraries introduce apprentices to the local arts and culture scene.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PRIZE

Apprentices who maintain a minimum average of 75% during their first two years of study, will at the end of their second year be sponsored on a cultural tour of Europe that focuses on exceptional mosaic artworks.

ATTENDANCE

The programme is a full-time three-year commitment, where apprentices are in studio five days a week, **Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm.** The timetable comprises of lectures and practical learning. Participation in all aspects of the programme is compulsory. The academic year commences in January and is divided into quarters. The academy holiday is at the end of the year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Academy tuition is sponsored, and **all apprentices receive a basic monthly allowance and an additional monetary incentive, based on work and study performance** – enabling learners to cover their living expenses whilst furthering their skills.

EVALUATION

Practical Mosaic is evaluated on a constant basis, with verbal and written feedback. The remainder of Academy subjects are evaluated during written examinations at the end of each quarter. **An average of 50% is required to pass Academy subjects.**

A word from our apprentices...

'The course is an amazing opportunity for anyone who's enthusiastic about his or her future. The most awesome part is the exposure to various artists, art galleries and influential business people who we can learn from. If you want to become a successful mosaic artist then this is the place for you.'

Andrea Fortuin
Current apprentice

'It was a privilege to receive such a good education. I developed my creative and professional skills and can now earn a living through creating artworks. I encourage interested applicants to dedicate three years to the Academy and invest in something bigger for the future.'

Miranda Vinjwa
Recent graduate & current teaching assistant

'At the Academy, I learn new things every day. I would say mosaic art is one of the most interesting, but also difficult art forms. I look forward to setting up my own studio and creating my own artworks the day I graduate.'

Ronald Muchatuta
Current apprentice