

Skating Into Mosaics



Julie Neumann



ABOUT ME

Teacher at Granada Hills Charter High School

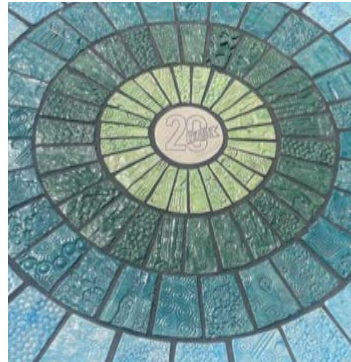
San Fernando Valley (Los Angeles)

4800 students (9-12)

Ceramics/Advanced Ceramics

Department Chair for 15 VAPA teachers

Doctoral Student @ Indiana University
Pursuing an EdD in Art Education
Focus=Community Based Art Education &
Ceramic Tile Mural Installations



MOSAIC TILE INSTALLATION ON A BLANK SKATEBOARD DECK

1



IDEA GENERATION

2



WORKING THE CLAY

3



INSTALLATION

1 - IDEA GENERATION

Brainstorm + Research

- Art History & Artists
- Nature
- Personal Interests, Passions, Culture
- Social Justice Issues - Senior Project
- Stained Glass
- Architecture & Cities

Sketch

- Begin with free drawing in sketchbook
- Select 2 ideas to refine
- Draw ideas in provided templates
- Discuss with teacher & select 1
- Color with colored pencil OR marker
- Connect color to glazes - make key

IDEA # 1



IDEA # 2



1 - IDEA GENERATION

Transfer to template

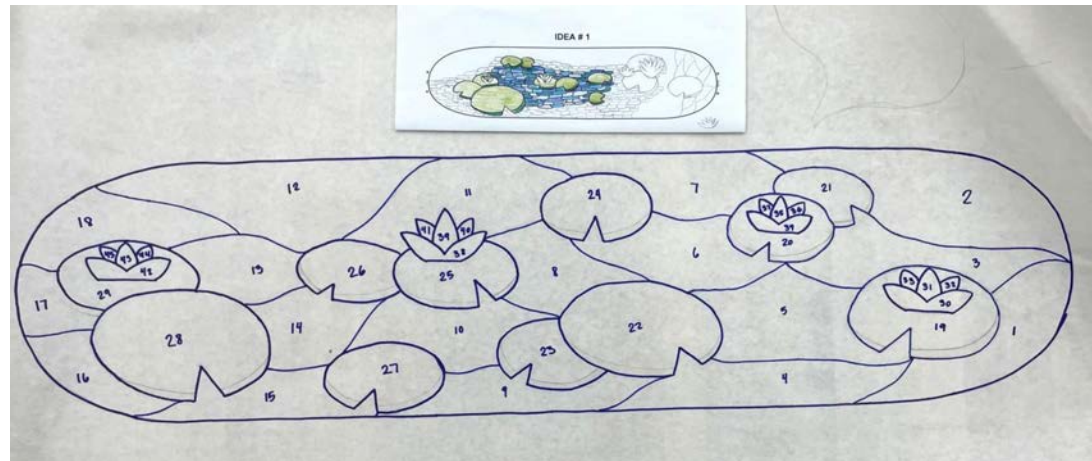
- Paper template should match the skateboard blank size exactly
- Use a grid from the small sketch to the large template for complex designs
- Use pencil so you can correct mistakes & make adjustments



1 - IDEA GENERATION

Transfer to template

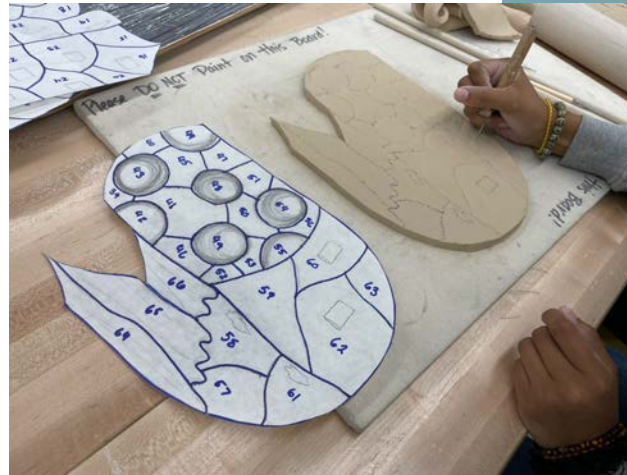
- Simplify design & divide large sections into smaller tiles
- TEACHER check - look for sharp points that would break and captured shapes like circles (see right)
- Sharpie the tile outlines. Add numbers to tiles
- IMPORTANT: Take a photo of the template for reference at later stages. It will come in handy when assembling the tiles on the board



2 - WORKING THE CLAY

SLABS

- Roll a slab to cover the board. If you have a slab roller this can be 1 tile. You may need to do 2 or 3 sections if rolling by hand. You can work in sections by cutting the paper template along a tile line
- Place the template on the clay, use a pin tool or ball stylus to draw along the lines.
- Clay shrinkage will account for the future grout lines.



2 - WORKING THE CLAY

SLABS

- Cut & clean the tiles. Store tiles on the skateboard to ensure proper fit.
- For easy storage cover the skateboard with plastic wrap each day.
- Scratch the tile number into the back of each tile. Use the template to find the correct tile number.
- KEEP the template - do not destroy or throw away!



2 - WORKING THE CLAY



FIRING & GLAZING

- For easy organization, give each student a separate box with a lid. Stacking the boxes helps with small classrooms.
- After bisque fire, students will assemble the tiles on the template to check the fit
- Glaze the tiles with 2 to 3 coats of glaze - We use Amaco Celadons and Mayco Stroke & Coat glazes

2 - WORKING THE CLAY

FIRING & GLAZING

- Keep each student's tiles together in the kiln to reduce confusion and missing tiles.
- When unloading the kiln, place the tiles into the student's individual boxes to keep everything organized.



3 - INSTALLATION

ADHERE THE TILES

- Arrange the tiles in place on the skateboard
- Use mastic and a spatula. You can either spread out a thin layer ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") onto the board OR add mastic to each tile individually
- Begin on one side and work toward the middle for 6 inches, then go the other edge and work to the middle 6 inches. THEN you can evenly distribute the remaining tiles to ensure proper spacing
- Carefully press the tile onto the board. Some mastic will come out from under, but the tiles should "float"

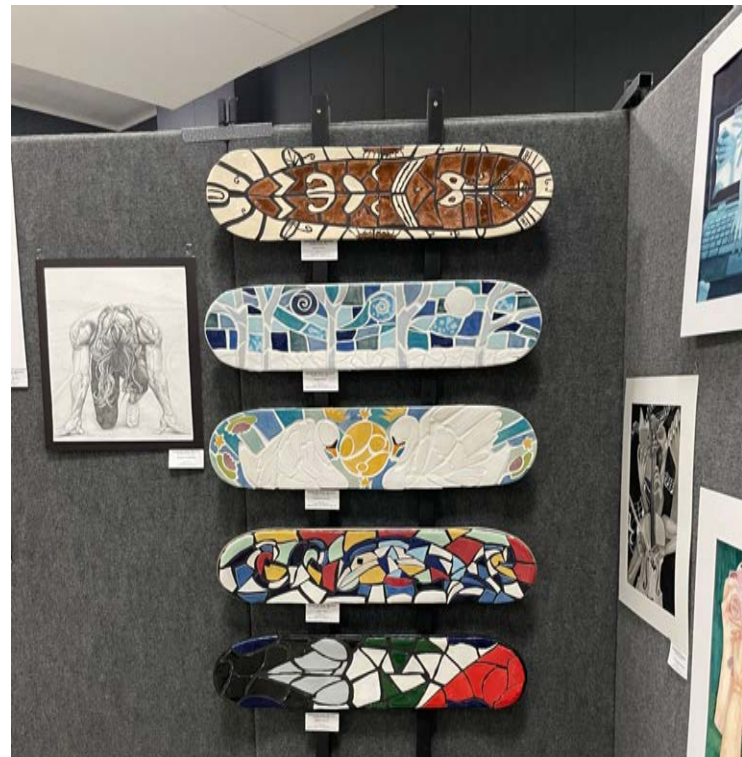


3 - INSTALLATION

GROUT THE TILES

- Premixed grout is more expensive, but it makes the process easier
- Work with small containers to prevent the grout from drying
- Use a spatula, or your hands, to press the grout into the gaps in the tiles
- Work in small sections to sponge off the excess grout and to smooth the lines.
- Be mindful to fill the visible side gaps around the edge of the skateboard for a clean look
- Wear gloves and this step needs to dry overnight





Exhibition



**MASTIC
(TILE GLUE)**



**GROUT
(FILLS TILE
LINES)**



**SKATEBOARD DECKS:
AMAZON LINK
(10 PACK) - \$12 each**

**CLAY:
BEE MIX - CONE 5**

**GLAZE:
MAYCO STROKE & COAT
AMACO CELADON**

SUPPLIES

CONTACT

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QR Code:
For slides & templates