YOUR GUIDE TO THE

paper mosaic course

A Guide to Help You Understand the Course Content

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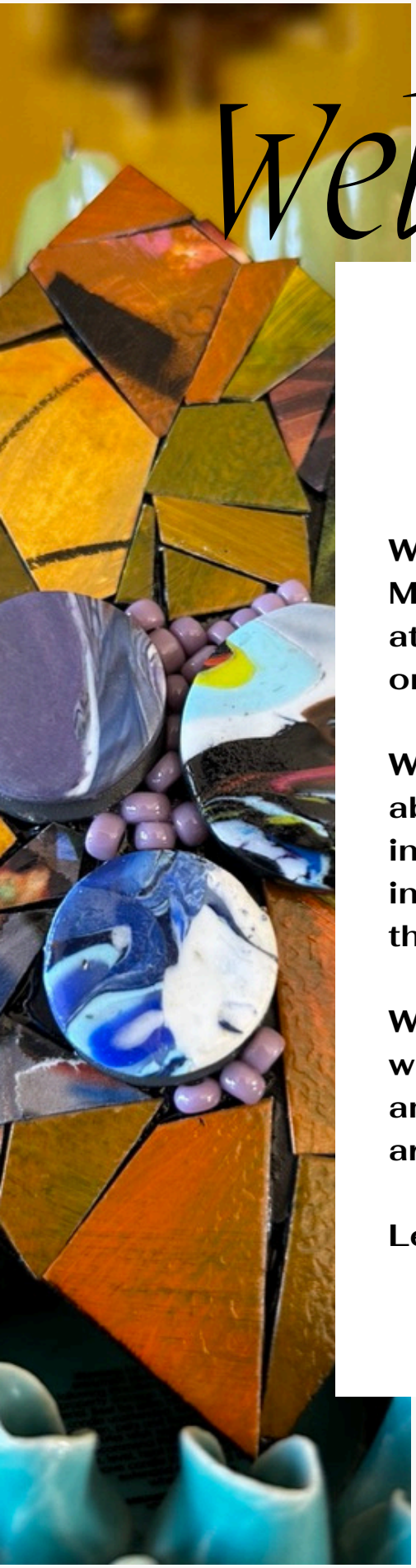


Welcome

to
The Art of Cardboard/Paper Mosaics
Course

Welcome to "The Art of Cardboard/Paper Mosaics," a guide that gives you an inside look at my creative process and the content of my online course.

Whether you're a mosaic enthusiast or an absolute beginner, this E-Book is designed to inspire you and offer a glimpse into this innovative and cost-effective medium I use in this course.

With practical advice and techniques, paired with visual examples, you'll see how cardboard and paper can transform into stunning mosaic artworks.

Let’s dive in and explore the possibilities!

About Me

Karla

Karla is an award-winning mosaic artist with a passion for wildlife conservation and vibrant color. With over 30 years of experience, her mosaic animal series highlights the beauty of nature while raising awareness about threats to South Africa's wildlife.

In addition to creating abstract 20 x 20 cm mosaic blocks, Karla is a skilled abstract painter who seamlessly merges painting and mosaic techniques. Her innovative creations include bird's-eye-view seascapes and vibrant bead and mosaic projects.

Her artwork has been showcased in galleries worldwide and is part of private and corporate collections in over 20 countries.

Karla is also dedicated to community impact, leading global and local mosaic charity projects, including initiatives in London, Nepal, and Cape Town.

Since 2011, she has collaborated with South African artisans, empowering them through creative expression.

Her work has been featured in international mosaic books.

Karla's vibrant creations continue to inspire and bring joy globally.

A Personal Note

As a mosaic artist for the past 30 years, I've found that my most rewarding and surprising works often come from moments of unplanned creativity and bold experimentation with materials that came across my path or were lying right in front of me.

Above all, my mantra has been trial and error, with the mindset that I don't have to impress anybody.

I create art that brings me joy and a deep sense of fulfillment, and I love sharing it with the world in the hope that others feel the same. It's not about validation, but about the excitement and satisfaction it brings—first to me, and then to those who connect with it.
Hence this course

how I came up with the idea for the course

The idea for this technique came to me after Covid when accessing traditional mosaic materials, like glass, was both challenging and expensive.

I've always been drawn to experimenting with unconventional mediums, and one day, while working on an intuitive painting, I thought, "Why not turn this into tesserae?" (Mosaic pieces) I could create unique, custom pieces of mosaic art without relying on store-bought materials.

As I began painting on different materials and cutting tesserae, I was thrilled by the vibrant textures and colors I could achieve. It felt liberating to have complete control over my palette and materials. The idea of mixing these handmade tesserae with beads and inserts only added to the excitement, creating mosaics that were not only cost-effective but also deeply personal and one-of-a-kind.

This approach gave me a new way to teach mosaics, making the art form more accessible while encouraging creativity and resourcefulness.

That's how the concept for this course was born. Now I like to share this innovative technique with others and inspire to push the boundaries of traditional mosaic art.

my experimenting process

Experimenting and Finding My Medium

When I first started exploring the idea of using paper for mosaics, it was all about trial and error. I experimented with all kinds of paper, including magazine pages. The text from magazines offered a playful look, and on rare occasions, I still use them—especially when I want to incorporate letters into a piece for an extra layer of meaning.

However, over time, I found myself leaning toward a specific cardboard. It has a texture and sturdiness that closely resemble traditional tesserae, and when painted, it captures the essence of a classic mosaic.

In fact, with a technique I've developed, even the trained eye might mistake these pieces for real glass mosaics.
This includes a unique way to make the cardboard pieces appear as though they've been grouted, giving them that polished, professional finish.

This journey of experimentation taught me the value of exploring different materials and finding what works best.

I share all of these insights in the course, from the pros and cons of various papers to the techniques that make cardboard tesserae shine.

It's all about discovering what works for you and making it your own.

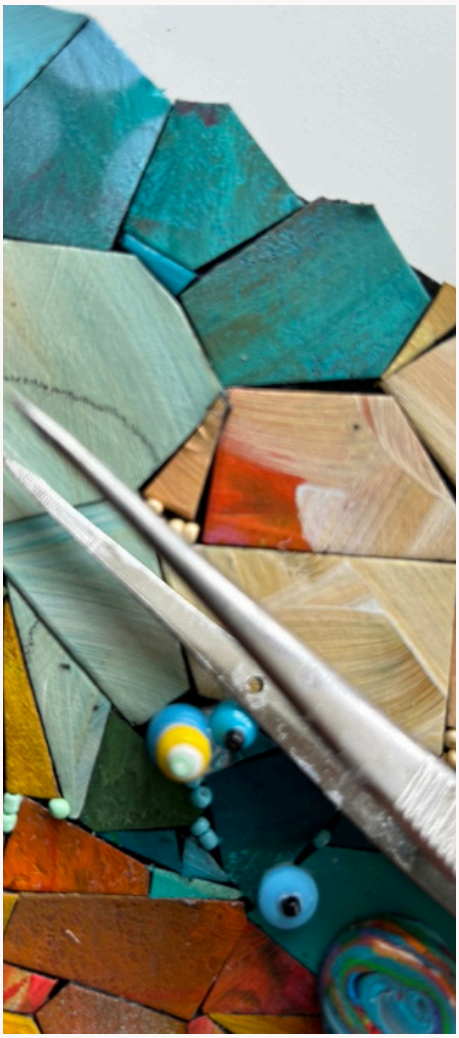
Why Cardboard and Paper?

Using cardboard paper as a mosaic medium offers endless creative potential while being highly accessible. Here's why this method stands out:

- **Budget-Friendly: Creating your own tesserae keeps costs low and eliminates the need for expensive materials like glass.**
- **Custom Color Palettes: By painting the tesserae yourself, you can craft unique, personalized color schemes that aren't available with pre-made materials.**
- **Eco-Friendly: Repurpose old paintings to create something entirely new.**
- **Creative Freedom: Experiment with textures, colors, and designs without worrying about breaking the bank or wasting costly materials.**

This approach not only saves money but also opens up a world of possibilities to develop your style.

Getting Started: Creating Your Tesserae



One of the most exciting parts of this technique is crafting your own tesserae. Here's how we do it:

1. Intuitive Painting: There's no need for perfection—embrace the process!
2. Cutting: Once your paint has dried, cut your pieces.
3. Color Coordination: Organize your tesserae by shades and hues.
4. No grouting needed

This process is simple yet incredibly rewarding, allowing you to create truly unique pieces that reflect your artistic vision.

Design and Composition

Creating a beautiful mosaic starts with a design idea.

Sketch Your Design: Plan patterns and abstract designs beforehand.

Go intuitive: Let your creativity flow without a set plan.

Arrange tesserae organically, allowing the piece to take to take shape as you go.

Color Balance: Use contrasting or complementary colors to create visual interest.

Textures: Incorporate inserts like beads or found objects for added depth and dimension.

Flow: Arrange pieces to guide the viewer's eye across your artwork.

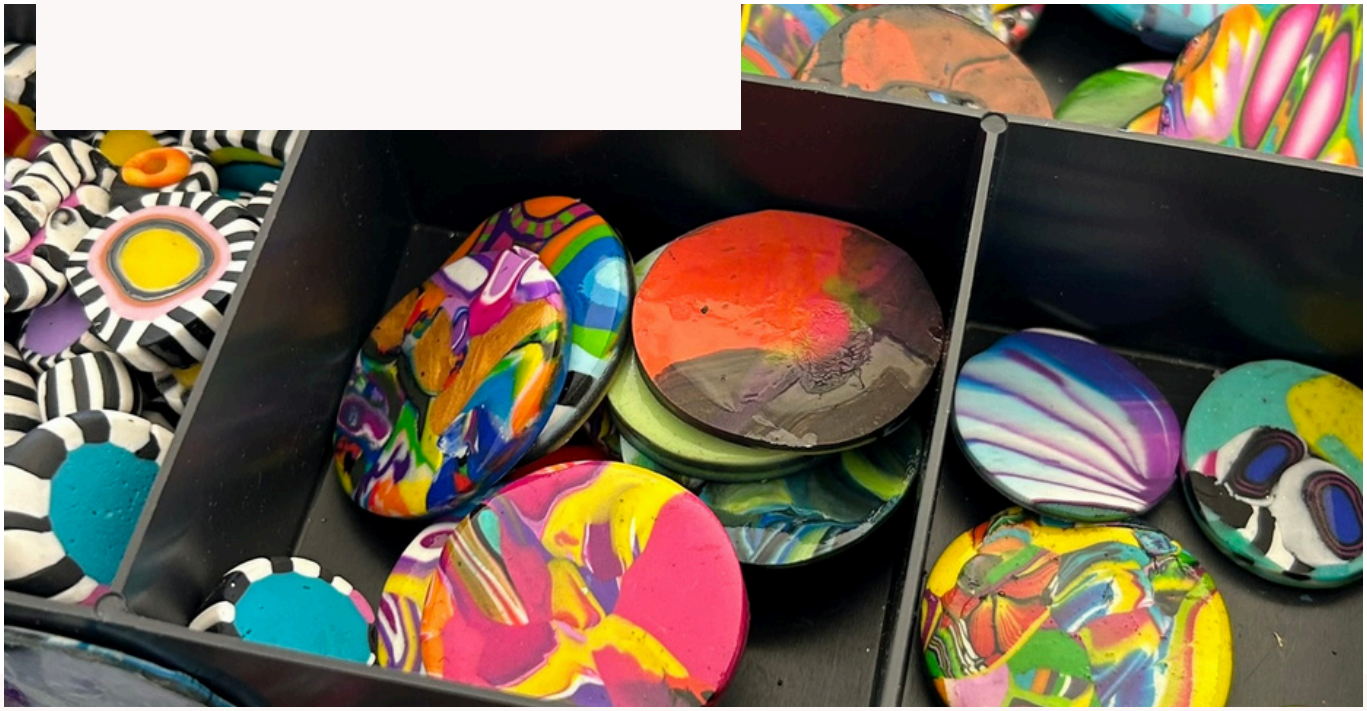
Adding Beads and Inserts

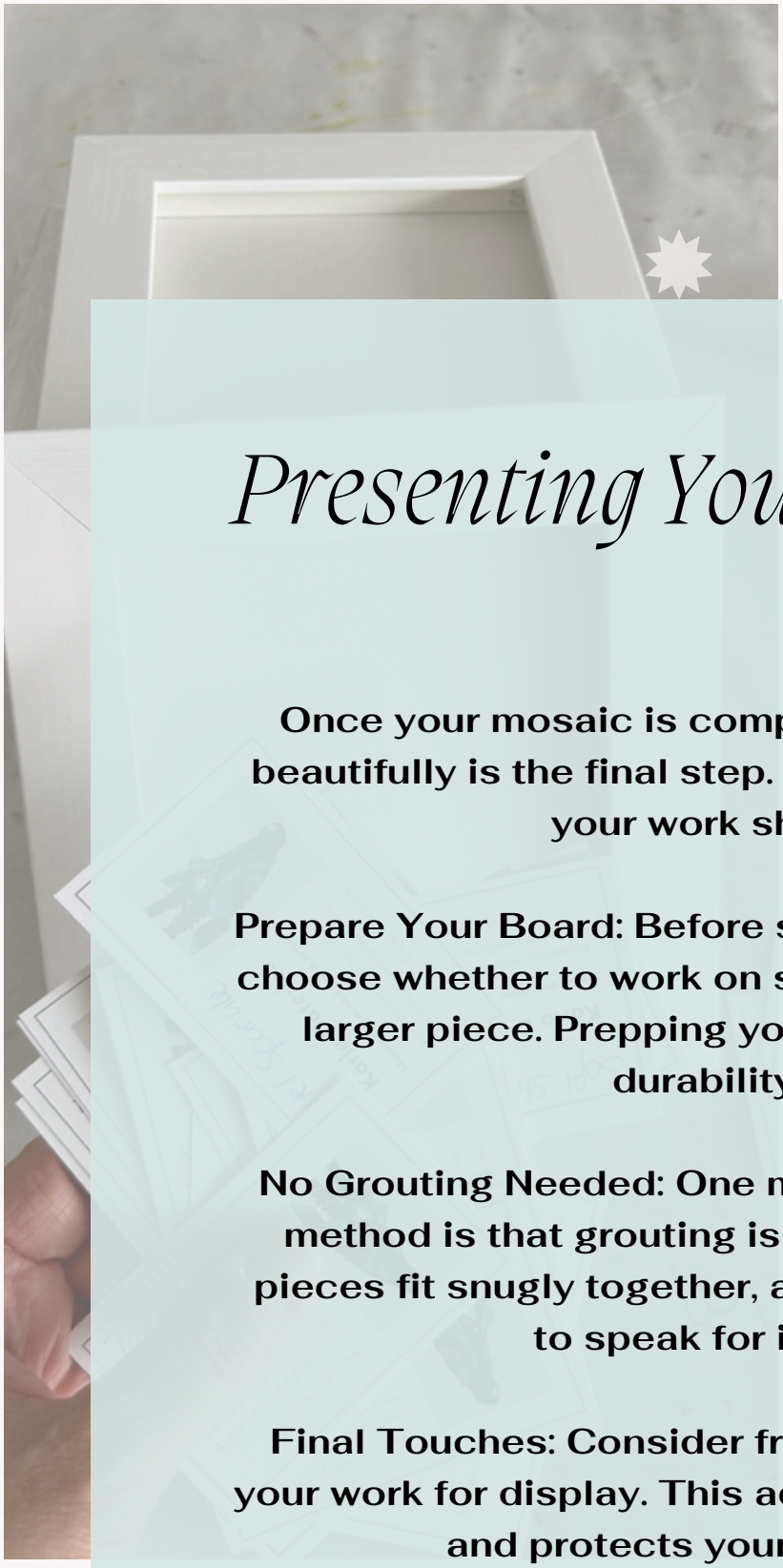
Incorporating unexpected elements like beads and other inserts elevates your mosaic to a whole new level.

These additions:

- Bring texture and visual intrigue.
- Create a tactile quality that makes your mosaic stand out.
- Allow for endless experimentation with materials you already have.

We'll explore how to position these elements effectively, ensuring they complement your tesserae and design.





Presenting Your Mosaic

Once your mosaic is complete, presenting it beautifully is the final step. Here's how to make your work shine:

Prepare Your Board: Before starting your mosaic, choose whether to work on small squares or one larger piece. Prepping your board ensures durability.

No Grouting Needed: One major benefit of this method is that grouting isn't necessary. The pieces fit snugly together, allowing the artwork to speak for itself.

Final Touches: Consider framing or mounting your work for display. This adds a polished finish and protects your creation.

What you take away from the course

- Explore New Options: Step beyond traditional methods and discover unconventional materials to incorporate into your work.
- Experiment Freely: Practice adamento (the flow of your mosaic) without the pressure of wasting expensive materials.
- Combine Materials: Mix and match traditional elements like glass with your handmade tesserae for a dynamic and textured result.
- Paint Your Tesserae: Create your custom color palette by painting and preparing your cardboard or paper pieces.
- Design Boldly: Play with color schemes and ideas for abstract designs, letting intuition guide your composition.
- Add Intriguing Elements: Incorporate beads, buttons, and other inserts to bring depth and personality to your mosaic.
- Finish with Flair: Present your completed mosaic as a unique artwork that reflects your creativity and style.

Next step

ONLINE COURSE PRICE $149

Ready to start your mosaic journey?

Sign up for the course and discover the joy of creating stunning, original art with cardboard and paper.

This is your opportunity to push the boundaries of traditional mosaic art and unleash your creativity in a whole new way.

info@karladuterloomosaics.com.

I can't wait to see what you'll create!

Click on the website below to **enroll** in the course.

Website: www.karladuterloomosaics.com

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