



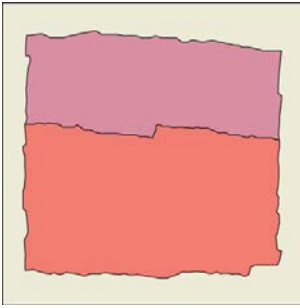
# **COLOR IN MOSAIC**

Vera Belikova

**A MOSAIC  
COURSE FROM A  
SPIILIMBERGO  
MOSAIC SCHOOL  
GRADUATE**

13-20 OCTOBER 2024

VENICE, ITALY



**During the course you will learn how to turn a plain sketch into a vibrant, colorful mosaic**



**There are several ways of interpreting a sketch:  
from simple to more elaborated. What are the  
crucial differences between these two mosaics?**

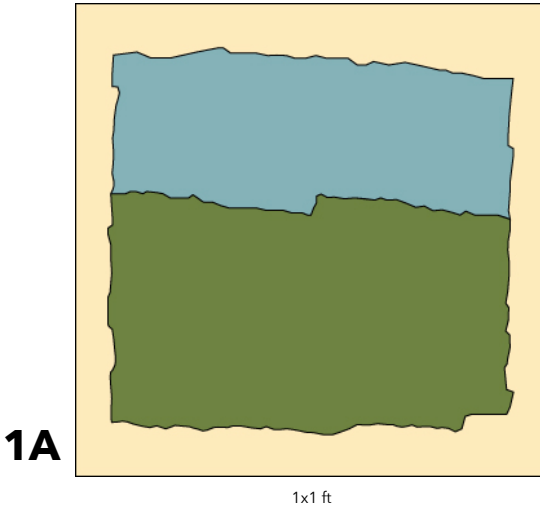


**How can it become even more colorful?  
You will see it in the workshop!**

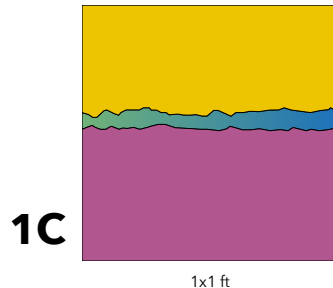
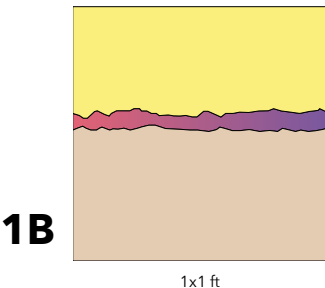


In preparation for the course, here is your first assignment:

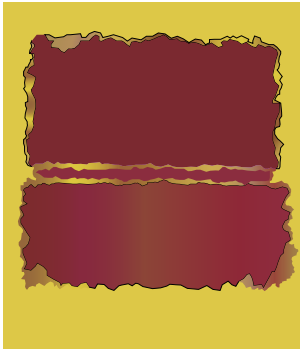
# CHOOSE YOUR SKETCH FROM THE ONES BELOW!



The designs differ in complexity, where 1 is the simplest and 4 - the most difficult. Please evaluate the level of your mosaic background before deciding which one is more suitable for you. Remember that you will have 3 full days to accomplish it.

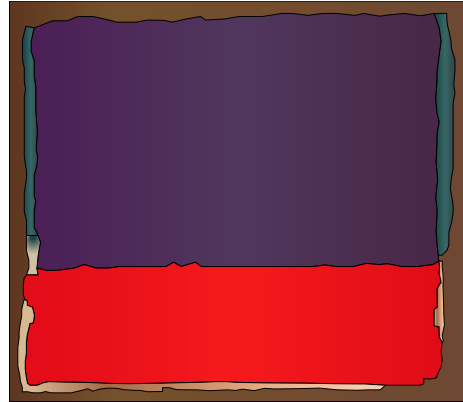


**2A**



1x1 ft

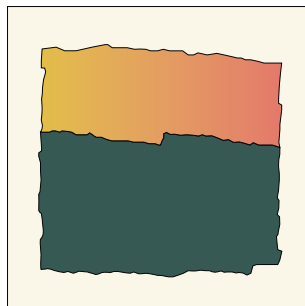
**2B**



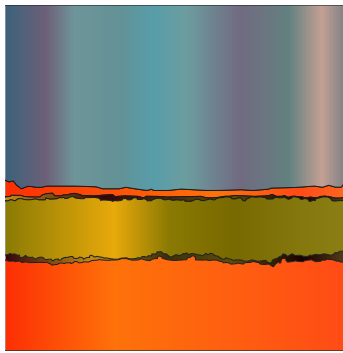
1x1 ft

Please let the organizers know in advance what mosaic you would love to create, so that all the necessary materials can be purchased in time. Remember that you are going to work with some unique Italian purchased especially for the course. The instructor will visit two smalti furnaces Donà Spilimbergo and Smalti Mosaico Morassutti and pick up the best colors for your project.

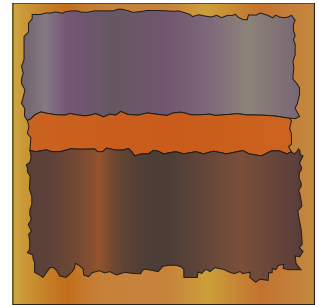
**2C**



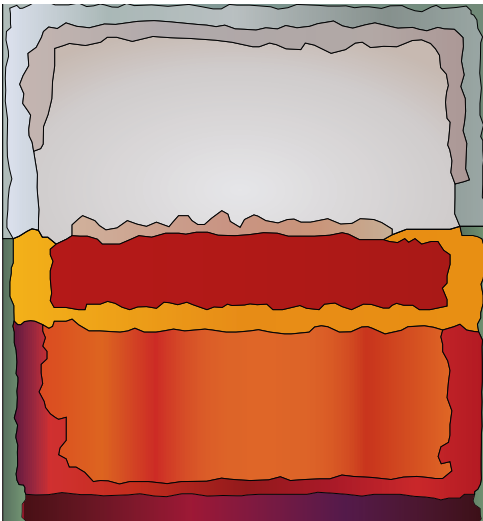
1x1 ft

**3A**

1x1 ft

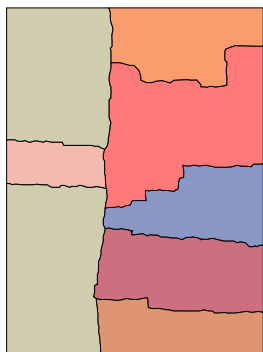
**3B**

1x1 ft

**3C**

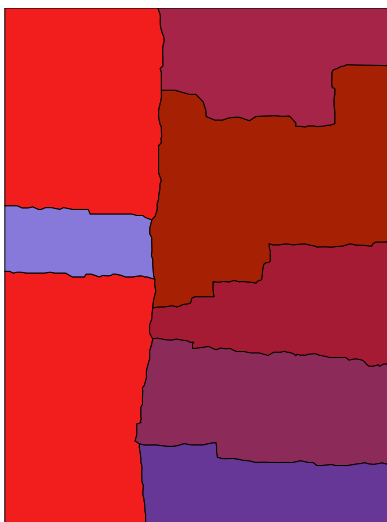
1x1 ft

During the workshop you will be able to create 3-7 colour mixes yourself and will learn how to make many more colors just by observing your coursemates' works. You will also analyse the use of color in works by Scuola Mosaicisti del Friuli, mosaic artists Giulio Candussio, Tatiana Dubovskaya, Jae Hee Kim, Joanna Kessel and even French pointillists Paul Signac and George Seurat to develop your eye for color palettes.



**4B**

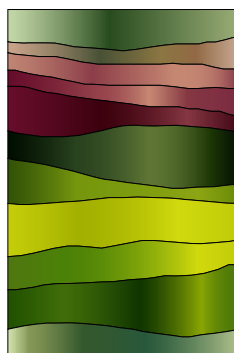
1,15x0,85 ft



**4A**

1,15x0,85 ft

During the course the instructor will guide you through the process of creating color in mosaic and you will learn how to create beautiful color mixes that will help your work stand out.



**4C**

1,15x0,85 ft



# THE COURSE OFFERS

- about one square foot individual mosaic under supervision of Maestra Mosaicista Vera Belikova
- unique abstract sketches elaborated specifically for the course, each made up of 3-7 color mixes harmonically distributed on the surface
- introduction into color theory for mosaics (*additive synthesis, complementary colors, color palette*)
- analysis of color mixes in three similar mosaics created by Vera especially for the course
- mosaic glossary (*e.g. andamenti, tessera, interstice*)
- practical introduction into cutting of smalti with a mosaic hammer and a hardie (*focus on irregular shapes*)
- analysis of Roman, Byzantine and contemporary andamenti
- focus on the use of cement glue as a tool to create a vibrant, irregular surface
- unique smalti imported straight from the Italian furnaces of *Donà Spilimbergo* and *Smalti Mosaico Morassutti*
- printed handouts with all the key information

# PROGRAM

The course is going to last 4 full days, spread in period of 8 days

## Day 1 - afternoon

At the beginning of the course you are going to take a look at Roman, Byzantine and contemporary mosaics. You will see how different tesserae can be and how the shape of single elements can change the perception of the whole mosaic.



Next you will do a fun activity where you will be able to draw your own andamenti and, who knows, maybe develop your own style. After that you will learn how to cut irregular forms with a mosaic hammer and to create a line with them.

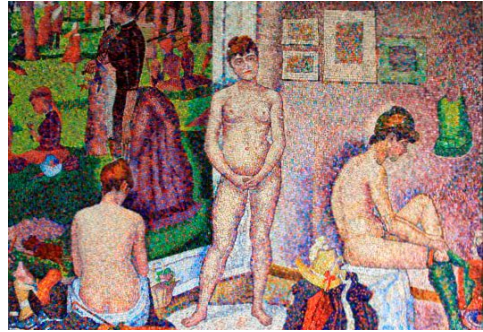
Finally, you will be taught how to glue the tesserae in a way that the mosaic surface becomes irregular and vibrant.

By the end of the day you are going to have a couple of your own andamenti developed from scratch and ready to be used in your big project.

## Day 2 - morning

You will start the first day by delving into the core of the course: color in mosaic. The instructor is going to introduce you into how it works by explaining a set of basic rules and definitions that help you understand how colors behave and interact. You will also see why the color wheel is the best friend of a mosaicist and why French pointillists already knew how to use color in mosaic.

Additionally you will analyse the use of color in mosaics and pointillism paintings. You will continue the day by imagining the possibilities of color mixes in your sketches. You will soon notice that some of your coursemates have similar colors and this will be just the right moment for group and pair work, an opportunity to exchange your experience and impressions on color perception.



## Day 2 - afternoon

In the second part of the day you will implement all the knowledge received so far. The first thing will be to gather the materials for your first color mix.



Remember that depending on your sketch, you will have to create 3-5 mixes. The smalti will be selected for you in advance and purchased in the right quantity, so you don't have to worry about not having enough materials for finishing your work.

As soon as you get your materials, you can start cutting and gluing them on the final support.



## Day 3

You will proceed with mosaic creation at your own pace. The mosaic is big enough, it can be finished in three days, so take your time to enjoy the process and to take care of all the details: shapes, colors, glue, inclination of the tesserae, interstices between them.

## Day 4

You will continue to work on your mosaic following all the instructions received so far. This methodical approach not only results in a stunning piece of art but also transforms the creation process into a relaxing and fulfilling experience.

## Day 5 - morning

This will be the day when your mosaic is finished. We will also take care of grouting the sides and borders of your project, so that it looks perfect from all points of view.



**READY TO TRY YOUR HANDS AT MIXING  
COLORS IN MOSAIC?**



# MEET THE MAKER

Vera Belikova has been Master Mosaicist since 2017. In 2018 she created two mosaic sculptures for the Apulia Region in Italy, one of which as a guest artist at *Apulia Land Art Festival*.

In 2018 she won *Sprech Agorà Design Contest*, presenting a pouf with mosaic inlays, which was lately exhibited at the *Milan Design Week*.

In 2019 she installed a mosaic sculpture in Turin for the festival *Cavallerizza Irreale*.

In 2020 she exhibited next to Paola Navone and Elena Salmistraro in the *Superstudio+* Gallery in Milan in the show of female art and design curated by its founder Gisella Borioli.

Upon invitation of Giulio Menossi she represented Russia at the international mosaic symposium in Mexico in 2023. In March 2024 she taught a class on color in mosaic in Austin, Texas.

Throughout her carrier Vera has mainly collaborated with the mosaic artist Giulio Candussio. She is currently working on her personal projects, delving into such aspects like color and terrazzo.



[www.verabelikova.it](http://www.verabelikova.it)

