



Institute of Mosaic Art

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"What started for me as something to do one weekend has become my passion. The classes, camaraderie, support, and accepting environment make IMA a magical place for me. Laurel's and IMA staff's enthusiasm, experience and leadership have helped create a jewel in Oakland's Jingtown Arts District."

— Kathleen Cook, San Ramon

"I came home richly inspired and encouraged both about design and technique"

— Kelley Knickerbocker, Seattle

INSTITUTE OF MOSAIC ART

Institute of Mosaic Art is the realization of Laurel True, mosaic artist and instructor. Laurel's ambition has always been to expand, promote and make available mosaics to a wider group of people. With a thriving public art and commissions business, True began teaching in the mid 90's, through True Mosaics Studios. She developed a local following and soon students began to travel from around the county to attend her classes.

The popularity of mosaics and crafts began to grow and more people were seeking out the opportunity to learn the ancient art of mosaics. True Mosaics Studio expanded, offering a more diverse course load but it was clear the demand was greater than True could provide on her own. More space and instructors were needed in order to fulfill the students' need for advanced classes and interests in divergent styles and techniques. Institute of Mosaic Art was born. Institute of Mosaic Art (IMA) is now able to offer its students classes at all levels from multiple beginners classes to master's series classes as well as courses geared towards students aiming for mosaics as a profession.

Institute of Mosaic Art has 5 regular instructors, 3 classrooms, an outdoor courtyard work area, and a full schedule of events from slide shows and lectures to speciality workshops. Institute of Mosaic Art is proud to invite a host of visiting artists, among them some of the most well known names in the field including esteemed artists Sonia King, Ellen Blakeley, and Isaiah Zagar. A certificate program is also in the works, which will enable students a guided path towards their mastery of mosaic art.

Institute of Mosaic Art also offers the first of its kind resource library, The Musiva Library, which brings together books, periodicals, articles, pamphlets, artist biographies, and back issues of newsletters and magazines dating back as far as the 1950's. Further, the walls and halls of IMA act as gallery space for ongoing exhibitions, a full schedule of curated shows are always on the calendar and provide inspiration to students and visitors. Students and local artists can also find all the supplies they need at Mosaic Studio Supply, IMA's retail shop.

There is no other mosaic center of this kind in North America. The actualization of Laurel True's dreams to open a mosaic center have come to fruition. Institute of Mosaic Art is a gathering place that will promote and expand the art of mosaics. Institute of Mosaic Art is more than just a place to take workshops or buy supplies it is a community for people who share a love for mosaic art.

MOSAIC STUDIO SUPPLY

Mosaic Studio Supply, a retail mosaic and art supply store, opened its doors in early 2005. Started by mosaic artist and Institute of Mosaic Art founder Laurel True, Mosaic Studio Supply is an boon for mosaic artists and enthusiasts around the bay area and beyond. True's fifteen years of experience as a professional mosaic artist and instructor gave her the unique insight into the needs of professional mosaicists as well as hobbyists, inspiring her to open an all-in-one mosaic art supply store.

Mosaic Studio Supply has a large and varied selection of interesting and hard to find items and supplies for both the beginner and seasoned mosaic artist. Mosaic Studio Supply is a complete mosaic shopping experience and provides everything mosaic artists need— from a huge variety of tile to studio accessories. There are hundreds of different types of tesserae, vitreous glass, Orsoni smalti, interior and exterior tile for mosaics, huge selection of dichroic and fusible glass, and hundreds of colors of stained glass and colored mirror. The store also stocks tools from the hard to find to the ordinary. For inspiration and instruction, artists can choose from a range of books and magazines. There are substrates and mosaic making kits, tile making and glass fusing supplies not to mention beautiful hand made aprons from Africa. Mosaic Studio Supply literally carries everything a mosaic artist needs for projects ranging from decorative objects to large-scale mosaic installations. The knowledgeable and friendly staff can help artists select exactly what they need for their projects. Mosaic Studio Supply has been featured on Oakland Unwrapped and as well as HGTV's "Double Take" which will air this Fall.

Shoppers at Mosaic Studio Supply also benefit from the surroundings as the store is located inside the Institute of Mosaic Art building. Here they can view rotating exhibitions of mosaic work from around the country, be part of the bustling energy of the mosaic art school, browse through the mosaic resource library or take a load off in the outdoor courtyard. Mosaic Studio Supply is more than just an art or supply store it is a mosaic arts destination.



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"You have EVERYTHING here...all in one place!"
— Happy Mosaic Studio Supply Shopper