



By: Mayrenilda Tejada



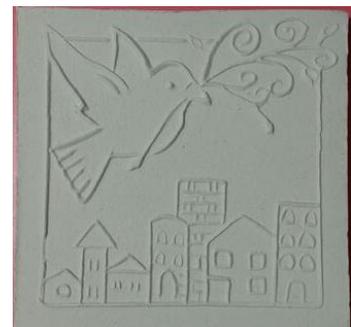


On day one, we were introduced to several examples of tiles and tile making techniques.

Our first project was to create a unique 4x4 tile using our own designs. The first step was to choose an image. Next, we traced the image on the plaster block, and then we carved the pottery plaster block.

The plaster bloc became our template therefore we were able to make multiple tiles with the same design.

After carving our designs we created slabs of clay in which we pressed our carved plaster block to make our unique tiles.



On day two, we glazed our tiles. The colors on the glazes were so rich that we could get an idea of how our tiles would look once they came out of the kiln.

The fun thing about tile making is that the possibilities are endless. I played around with my tiles and made two different colored versions.





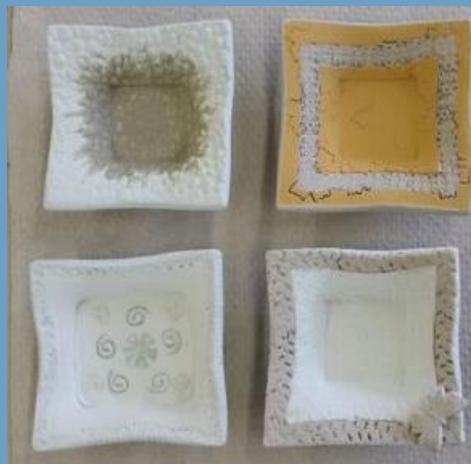
On day two, we also experimented with a simpler way of creating tiles. We pressed a variety of natural leaves and textured objects on a slab of clay to create nature inspired and textured tiles.



We applied glazes over the leaves using a sponge, and then removed the leaves. Removing the leaves created a negative print on the clay.

On day three, we were introduced to another simple but exciting project. This was perhaps the most exciting technique. We used a large piece of foam to turn tiles into small plates. We also used a variety of cake decorating items to add texture and designs to the tiles. We pressed in the center of the tiles with a squared piece of wood into the large piece of foam. The clay sank into the foam forming the shape of a plate.

The results were extraordinary. We were so fascinated with our plates that we were like children with new toys.



Cookie cutters can work magic.

On days three and four, we learned how to make small tiles using cookie cutters. We cut many tiles so we could have enough pieces to create a mosaic mirror. The shapes of the tiles were colorful, sharp and easy to create. The idea of creating a mosaic mirror was exciting. Not only were we going to learn how to set tiles, but we were going to have a functional object to bring home. At the end of the day, every class member had a tray full of small tiles. We placed our trays in the kiln. We waited eagerly for the kiln to do its magic. While we waited for the kiln, we prepared the layout for our mirrors. 24 hours later, our tiles came out bright and colorful. It was like Christmas in July. We worked on our mirrors for two days.

On day four we placed the tiles on a piece of cement board using quick set. On day five we completed our mirrors by applying grout and cleaning our tiles.



I am eager to bring all this new ideas and skills into my art room. I want my students to experiment with some of the techniques I learned. I am sure my students will love to create projects that are unique fun and simple to make. Although we do not have a kiln in our art room, I am sure we can create some pieces using air-dry clay. Mosaic would be a good way to create murals around my school. I would like to create a mural promoting peace, sense of community and solidarity. I believe the work of Peter Max would be a great source of inspiration for this project. Our school community would benefit from having positive messages around the building. I believe that I can use newly learned skills to motivate and inspire students.

I want my students to understand that art is more than just painting and drawing; that art can be a common activity that we usually take for granted. I want to create a sense of community among students and show them that they are capable of doing amazing things when working together; that art is a way of expression, it's an experience, and it is something to be proud

Thank you aTi and sponsors for such an amazing and insightful workshop. It was a true pleasure meeting such a dedicated instructor and other passionate art teachers.

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Looking forward to another exciting workshop at aTi

