

Painterly Mosaics

Tutored by Dr Helen Bodycomb

Hosted by Joanna Kessel MA RCA at Edinburgh Mosaic Studio, Scotland

18-21 July 2025

£600

The 4-day **Painterly Mosaics** workshop utilises the subtle surface variations of Mexican glass smalti and will be taught by Guest Australian Mosaicist, Dr Helen Bodycomb. It will be hosted by artist Joanna Kessel MA RCA at Edinburgh Mosaic Studio.

The workshop will be focused on learning how to think and make like a painter, through the nuanced tonal and colour transitions offered by Mexican smalti. Every Mexican glass smalto tessera contains a range of unique nuances that can be used to express subtle shifts in tonality, hue and implied texture in an otherwise relatively flat mosaic - a perfect material to create Painterly Mosaics. Palettes will be design specific, and after you book your workshop place, Helen will be in touch with you by email to discuss design options.

Painterly Mosaics offers a unique opportunity to study with Dr Helen Bodycomb in the UK and to work with this highly versatile mosaic material, little known or used in this country, so be on the front foot by joining this workshop.

The tutor:

Dr Helen Bodycomb is one of Australia's leading contemporary artists specialising in mosaic. After training as a fine art painter, she has practiced full-time, working predominantly in stone and glass for more than 30 years. Helen's innovative work extends from neo Greco-Roman mosaic to creating intricate, precision inlays into multi-tonne basalt boulders for public art commissions. She also applies mosaic methodologies to more experimental artworks exploring ephemera and biodegradability. Helen is the author of *Mosaicism – Thinking in Mosaic*, was awarded her PhD for 'Mosaic: Classical Principles and the Act of Making in Contemporary Works', and is the current President of MAANZ (Mosaic Association of Australia and New Zealand).

The artists:

Helen and Joanna are both highly regarded artists, frequently exhibiting their contemporary mosaic artworks nationally and internationally. This year they are collaborating on an exciting creative project that geographically ranges from Australia via Scotland to Italy.

The Venue:

Joanna Kessel set up Edinburgh Mosaic Studio in 2009, from which she ran a regular program of popular mosaic workshops; it is now primarily a workspace for personal creative practice. The studio is based at Wasps Patrioathall Studios, once a co-op bakery but now home to around 50 artists and makers, with two industrial style galleries on the ground floor. The workshop will be held in the back gallery that opens out onto the small side garden.

The Location:

Patrioathall is situated in the buzzing city centre area of Stockbridge on the edge of the New Town and is about 25 minutes walk from Princes Street, Waverly train station, the Bus station and airport tram stop. Stockbridge has a thriving café culture and there are lots of interesting places nearby to have lunch plus a lively Sunday Market with a focus on street food. Alternatively bring your food to eat at the studio.

As Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh boasts a wide range of cultural venues, galleries and museums, historical sites that traverse the Royal Mile from the castle to the palace, the stunning natural amenities of Arthur's Seat (the extinct volcanic hill that overlooks the city) and the Royal Botanical Gardens, plus a variety of accommodation options, restaurants, cafes and bars.

Level: The workshop is suitable for all mosaic skill levels from post-absolute beginner to practicing mosaic artists.

Dates: Friday 18 – Monday 21 July 2025 inclusive

Price: £600

A non-refundable* deposit of £200 will be required to secure your place. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and can only be secured on receipt of the deposit.

No. of participants: The workshop has been designed to accommodate 5-8 participants. We require a minimum of 5 bookings for the workshop to run. If the workshop becomes fully booked we will keep a waiting list.

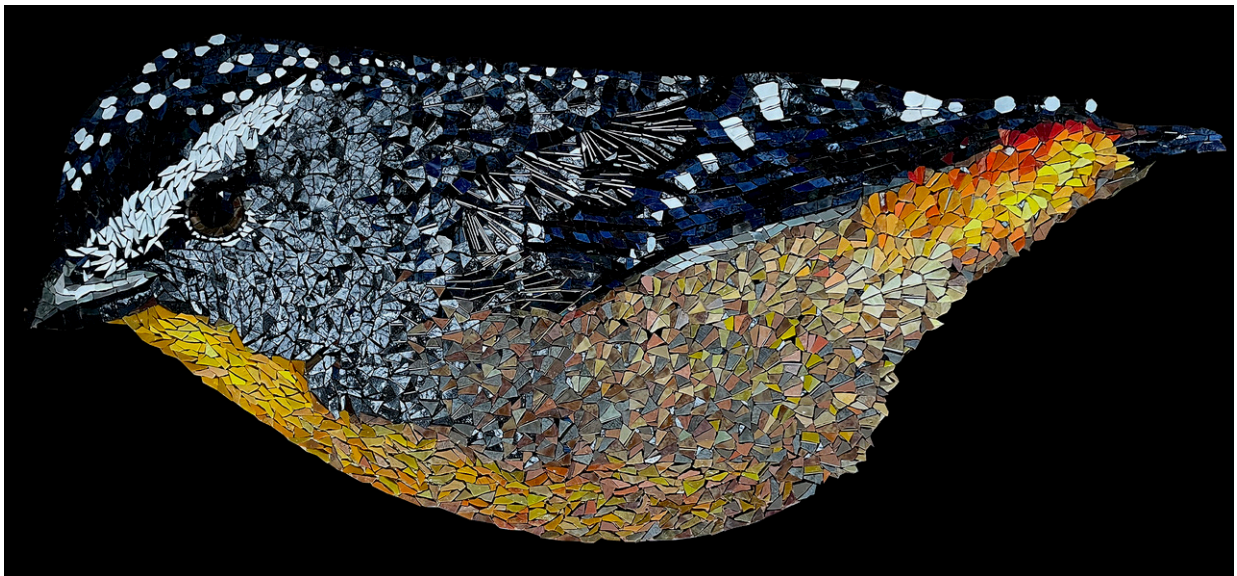
Included:

- Expert tuition
- 9.30-5pm daily over four days
- All studio materials and equipment
- Refreshments; tea, fresh coffee, biscuits
- Bonus evening talk by Helen Bodycomb (Friday til 6.30pm)
- Bonus signed copy of Helen's book Mosaicism – Thinking in Mosaic
- Optional evening visit to Joanna Kessel's studio

Venue: Edinburgh Mosaic Studio, Patriothall, Stockbridge, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Booking: To request an application form and book your place on the workshop please email joannakessel@gmail.com

@joannakessel / @helenbodycomb



Spotted Pardalote. Helen Bodycomb. Mexican smalti on aluminum honeycomb panel. 2024