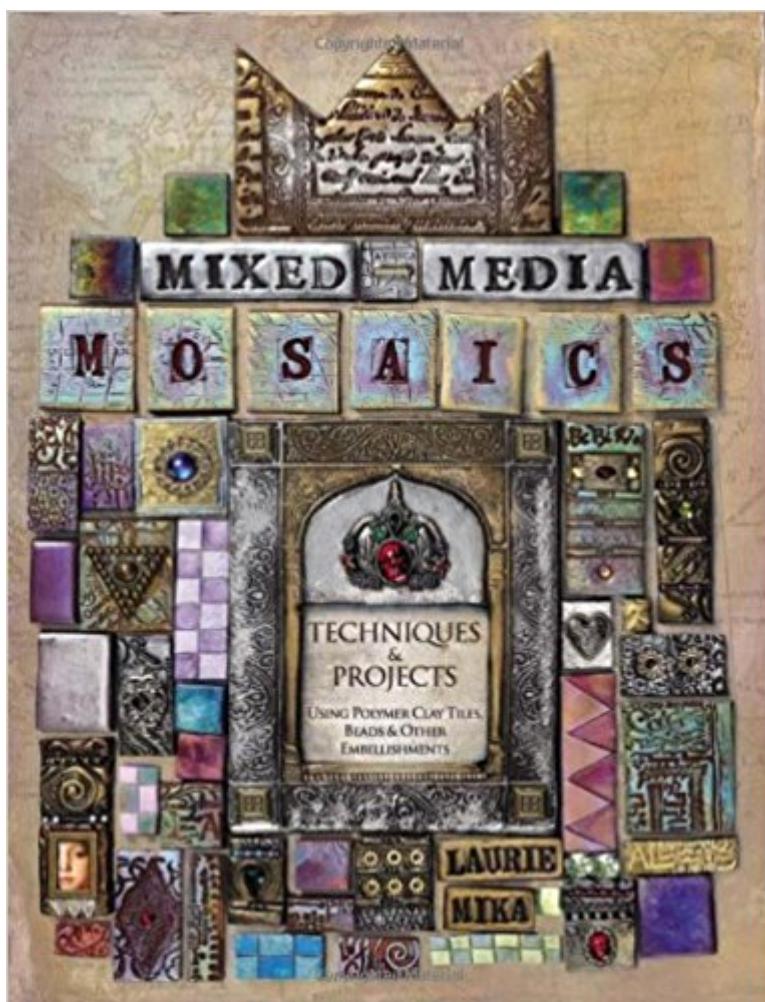


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# Mixed-Media Mosaics: Techniques And Projects Using Polymer Clay Tiles, Beads & Other Embellishments



## Synopsis

Imagine beautiful mosaic pieces with tiles that you easily create yourself! Mixed-Media Mosaics offers a fresh, new approach to a traditional art form. By making your own tiles from polymer clay, you control the size, shape, color and even the texture, resulting in beautiful finished pieces that include tabletops, boxes, jewelry and shrines. In addition to learning traditional tiling techniques such as working with grout and cutting glass tile, you'll also explore creative options for personalizing tiles: Discover the magic of mica powders and the regal look they can give to mosaics. Learn quick and easy ways of adding paint to handcrafted and commercial tile. See how easy it is to create molds and cast your own relief tiles. Find ways to add personal meaning to your work with the addition of text tiles. Experiment with the addition of beads, jewelry and other embellishments by embedding them right into the tile! Whether you'd like to complete a mosaic tabletop for your patio, a jewelry box as a special gift, or simply experiment with jewelry, you'll find the inspiration you seek in Mixed-Media Mosaics. Start creating your custom mosaic pieces today.

## Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: North Light Books; 1st edition (July 6, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1581809832

ISBN-13: 978-1581809831

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.5 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 105 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #505,265 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Mosaic #23 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Mosaics #102 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics

## Customer Reviews

Laurie Mika's work employs her unique handmade tiles with mosaics, beads and jewelry to create "contemporary icons" (a blend of Byzantine art, Illuminated Manuscripts and Mexican folk art). Laurie was published in the premier issue of Expressions magazine and has had work published in Somerset Studio, Somerset Wedding 2, Haute Handbags and Somerset Gallery 5, as well as the books 400 Polymer Clay Designs (Lark, 2004), New Techniques for Wearable Art (Quarry, 2004) and JoAnn Locktor's Mosaic Art and Style: Designs for Living Environments (Quarry, 2005). Mika

has also appeared on HGTV's Crafters Coast to Coast and the DIY network's Craft Lab, and has taught workshops at Artfest in Port Townsend, Washington, Art Unraveled in Phoenix, Arizona, and Art and Soul in Dallas. She will also be teaching at Art and Soul in Portland in 2006 and at Hacienda Mosaico in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in 2007.

What a wonderful book full of creative ideas and thoughts. While the projects are spectacular, the basic instructions and techniques are really all you need to create your own art. I can't wait to express myself with my tiles. I can think of all kinds of wacky embellishment that would make a piece, my own. I do love books that inspire. The pictures remind me of a box of candy, looking over each element, and taking in the whole thing. I AM GOING TO GO BAKE TILES FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, and then I am going to sit in a nice comfortable spot and make a collage of my favorite things. My dogs will have to cook their own meals for a few day, or ask their Daddy nicely because I am going to be busy. I would recommend this book to any frustrated artist or artist wannabe. The pictures are clear, instructions direct, and it's a wonderful sight.

I've never really been a crafter... I've tried knitting and crocheting to fill up some of my free time, but it was all too tedious for me. I tried jewelry making, but that too got a bit boring. Until I stumbled upon traditional mosaics, which I absolutely loved because all the different projects that I could do.. it seemed endless. And what a delight to come across this book at my local Michael's!!! It seemed like a lot of work at first, creating and painting and stamping my own tiles... and sometimes one project does take time, but each tile is a work of art, each one different and unique and when it's all put together, it's really just amazing!!! It's an artform that is oddly beautiful. It can be kind of expensive buying all your tools but once you have them, you can make many different projects out of them. For example, different stamps, the acrylic paints, mica powders, polymer clay, most of these things I didn't have, but once you get your tools together, you can create lots of really amazing art pieces!!! I found the process of making my own tiles very easy and quite therapeutic. Love this book and would recommend it to all ages!!!

What a humbling book. It's got beautiful projects inside, most of which seems doable if you can acquire the materials. I love how visual it is, though in some cases the instructions aren't aligned well with the visuals. In all, it's a great bible for polymer clay mosaics, and a really good resource on what materials work in what projects, and where to find them. I've incorporated a lot of Mika's tips into my work.

I checked this book out from the library and liked it so much I bought it. It is concise with both pictures and written instructions. It also has resources in the back. My only warning would be that it is mostly polymer clay. The projects are polymer clay with other materials added. If you are not looking for a mixed media book that is mostly polymer clay projects, then this is not for you. However, if you want to learn how to incorporate polymer clay into many projects, this is a great book to start with.

I ordered this book, even though I am not a "mosaic" person. The projects on the cover just looked so intriguing and the title lead me to think that this would be a book about incorporating lots of different objects into mosaics- I think it was the 'and other embellishments' part. Since I do collage and mixed media art, I thought this might be a new field to explore. The book does NOT teach you about incorporating objects into mosaics (although there are a few things other than tiles in some of the projects), but it does tell you how this artist makes mosaics using clay tiles she makes herself with rubber stamps. And she does such a wonderful job of teaching you how to do this, too, that I am already getting my supplies together to try this, although I am also not a (polymer)"clay" person! She includes lots of tips-usually things you wouldn't think about until you run into a problem, the photos are clear and stepped out for each project, and the projects themselves are beautiful. The projects also are set up so that you can immediately see how you could change them or make something completely different, using the same techniques. If you enjoy collage, mosaics, rubber stamps and/or polymer clay, this book could lead you in a new direction.

Fabulous book. I went on to take a class from Laurie - wow, was that terrific. I keep the book handy in case I need to refer to it. It is very clear and perfect for someone who has never worked with polymer clay before - as well as providing inspiration for those who have moved on to more advanced techniques. You will not need another book on using polymer clay if you have this one.

I am an art book junkie. I take a class then buy the book. Loved the author's workshop and had to buy her book. It is as if she were in my craft room, giving me all the techniques and hints on "how to." You can easily follow the pages of colorful instruction and create unique objects of great sophistication and meaning using the sculpy clay with mica colors and baked easily in your own oven. Highly recommend the book and the art of Laurie Mika. *Mixed-Media Mosaics: Techniques and Projects Using Polymer Clay Tiles, Beads & Other Embellishments*

I loved this book and am a huge fan of Laurie. I am an artist myself using the same mediums and selling work at fine art shows. I have even been compared to her because we do have uncanny similarities in the stamps we use and style. I was doing my own tile boxes and wall art before I ever saw hers. The only downside I saw to the book is that there are many easier ways to do some of the techniques she talks about. I personally do use a pasta maker to roll my clay, the thin tiles work just fine, I use a water based acrylic varnish and before stamping images into the clay, I "paint" on a little baking soda to eliminate sticking. Otherwise the book was gorgeous and inspiring, I learned several new tricks, and is a great addition to my wonderful art book collection.

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