

1958

The Artist, The Journalist, and the Mosaic

Glenda Legore
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Legore, Glenda (1958) "The Artist, The Journalist, and the Mosaic," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 38 : No. 5 , Article 6.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol38/iss5/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

The Artist - - The Journalist - - And The Mosaic

by *Glenda Legore*
Home Economics Junior

I just finished wrapping a Christmas present I'm real proud of. It all started the other day when my friend, Cindy Thiessen, showed me some pictures of mosaics she had made for wedding presents. I was 'oohing' and 'ahhhing' and she said why didn't I make some, too. This was pretty funny because my friend Cindy, she's artistic, and that's just the opposite of me.

But she said it wasn't hard, and I figured she should know. You see, Cindy spent last summer in California studying mosaics as a special student and assistant instructor. She lived with Esther Dendel (a former ISC student) and her husband, Jo. They own Denwar Ceramics and the School of Mosaics where Cindy spent all day creating patterns and assisting in the classes.



1.

Glenda Legore

Cindy Thiessen, H. Ec. Sr.

. . . I thought that making a mosaic might take too much equipment, but Cindy assured me that all I needed to begin was a can of mastic and a pair of nippers. Mastic is the adhesive agent which holds the pattern to the surface. Nippers are the plier-like instruments for cutting mosaic tile.

When I wondered what kind of base to make my mosaic on, Cindy told me that almost any solid surface would do. People build mosaics on such things as copper bowls and tractor disc blades. Tables can be made from wall panels which are like a picture on a piece of plywood with a frame around it. Needless to say I was impressed. . .



2.

. . . Cindy kept talking about mosaic tile and I asked her about making mosaics from something else. I could remember seeing designs created from shells and bits of broken glass. It is also possible, she said, to make mosaics with buttons, bits of wood, or pebbles.

As for tiles, there are many kinds: byzantine, which is imported from Italy and costs \$4-\$14 per square foot; venetian glass which ranges from \$1.50-\$6.00 depending on the color; vitrified, the kind used on floors and counter tops, costing \$1.50 per square foot; and ceramic which is cheapest at \$1.30 per square foot. . .

... At this point Cindy really raved about ceramic tile. She thinks it's the prettiest and easiest to work with. I expect she knows because she worked with many kinds last summer.

By now, even unartistic me had visions of doing a mosaic beautiful enough to be exhibited somewhere like a Leguna Beach exhibit where Cindy showed her work. Well, not really, but I hoped to make some that would be nice enough to give to some of my friends.

So I said, "Look here, Cindy old friend, (using a little psychology) wouldn't it be fun for us to make a mosaic." And she said "Yes."

So I picked a copper bowl, and we went to work.

The Artist - -

The Journalist - -

And The Mosaic



... First we figured out a simple design. Then we cut the tile with the nippers to fit each part of the design and pasted it down with the mastic.

This was rather thrilling because here your own design comes to life. Here, too, you can see the texture emerge as the various sizes and shapes are laid down. . .



... Next came the process with a strange name that I could never help associating with birds - grouting. Grout is a refined cement. It is mixed with water, glue, and the color which comes in powder form. The grout and color we bought at a lumberyard.

The tile is first soaked by pouring water over it and letting it stand about five minutes. Then it was well drained. We poured the grout on and worked it into all the cracks. This was to protect the edges and give a finish to the tile. . .



... After the grout hardened somewhat, about two-eight hours, we wiped off the excess and allowed it to continue the hardening process.

Since making the mosaic I have begun wearing an artist's beret with my journalist's trench coat.

The moral of the story is that mosaics are fun, challenging, inexpensive, creative, and relatively easy to do. Ask the girl who makes one.