

Mosaic Blob Medallions

Central elements in the mosaics of Isaiah Zagar are his “blobs”. The “blobs” are created by pouring a puddle of grout, or cement, and then adding many different kinds of tiles and three dimensional objects while it is still wet. Once dry the “blobs” are bolted to the wall to begin Zagar’s mosaic technique.

In this activity, students can create their own small “blob” medallions using methods similar to Zagar. This also incorporates several recycled elements in a way similar to the artwork at PMG.



Materials

- White sanded grout
 - Acrylic paint
 - Container and mixing spoon
 - Water
 - Jar lids
 - Drill
 - Masking tape
 - Yarn
 - Objects to include in blob, such as small tiles, beads, sequins, seashells, bottle caps, soda tabs, etc.
1. To prepare jar lids, drill a small hole in each lid near the top. Put a length of yarn through this and tie it so it can later be hung up. Place a piece of masking tape over the hole on the outside of the lid.
 2. Mix the grout with water according to instructions on the grout packaging. Stir in a few drops of acrylic paint to give the grout color.
 3. Pour a small amount of grout into each student’s jar lid. Add enough to cover the entire bottom of the lid but not all the way to the top.
 4. Students can then press any objects they wish to incorporate into their blob in the wet grout.
 5. Allow to dry before moving. Grout will begin to set in 10-20 minutes, but it may take several hours for it to fully harden.
 6. Students can then wear the medallions or hang them as a decoration or ornament.