



[mosaicstudio.eu](http://mosaicstudio.eu)  
COMPANY PROFILE

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# ABOUT [mosaicstudio.eu](http://mosaicstudio.eu)



**mosaicstudio.eu** is a mosaic workshop founded by Marq Rawls in 2008. The workshop based in Dinant, Belgium produces and designs contemporary mosaic for the international market. We aim to continue the tradition of the 2000 year-old Byzantine mosaic and transform it to contemporary art pieces that suit today's needs. We insist to do all the procedures by hand, from melting sand into glass, cutting, to fixing and grouting. No machine is involved so we are able to deliver delicate products with deliberation applied on every single step. We also believe that every client's request is unique. Working closely with our clients, we visualize mosaic pieces that fit their identity and project sites. Every mosaic is tailor-made for the clients by our professional craftsmen.





# FOUNDER

Marq Rawls is a lifetime artist with extensive experience in various forms of expression. Being a furniture maker (1979-1986) at first made use of his predilection to create with his hands. Making mosaic draws even more on the artistic side of craftsmanship than making furniture.

In 2000, Marq followed a course in the world-famous CISIM (Centro Internazionale Studi Insegnamento Mosaico) in Ravenna, Italy. He further gained knowledge by reading books, visiting professional mosaic, glass and ceramics studios. In June 2007, Marq went to Venice for a Master course at Orsoni, one of the 3 companies in the world which produces glass of the highest quality. His first work with this glass, 'Other Fishes', was promptly selected for the International Mosaic Biennale in Tokyo. In winter 2008, he worked in Paris with a French mosaic artist Thierry Hochard, who taught him how to make the genuine traditional mosaic floors with marble and natural stones.



In 2008, Marq founded mosaicstudio.eu. He currently develops works designed in close collaboration with his clients and tailored to their demands, which inevitably results in original and exclusive mosaics that provide a unique cachet to the architecture that harbours them.

# WHY MOSAIC?

## **It is Durable.**

It is expected to last for 500 years with **low maintenance**. Mosaic found in Italy or other parts of Europe from the Roman times are best testament to its durability. It can become any surface of an architecture including floor, ceiling, interior wall etc. As it is **waterproof**, It can be also be used in bathroom, kitchen , spa, swimming pool or any exterior surface.

## **It is of the Finest quality.**

mosaicstudio.eu only uses **Smalti** (traditional hand-cut crystal glass) produced by 3 **exclusive** glass producers in the world. For clients who want a luxurious product, 24K gold fused Smalti can be adapted to the design. Fine marble can also be used for floor pattern.

## **It can be Customized to the meet your needs.**

mosaicstudio.eu can deliver mosaic of **any size** and **any format** requested by clients. We can turn an image provided by architects or interior designers into a mosaic panel. We can also design for the client upon the conditions of the project site or provided design drawings.

## **It is a symbol of Elegance and good taste.**

In the Byzantine times, only nobles or important figures can possess mosaic. Today, only the people with good taste knows to seek for this **enrichment in life** and continuation of tradition.

## **It has a Tactile Surface.**

Its surface has a **rich texture**. Touching it is a pleasure.

## **Every piece is Unique.**

Every piece of glass is **hand-cut**. Even with the same design, its appearance can vary with different choices of colours or laying pattern.

# HISTORY OF MOSAIC

5000 years ago, the Sumerians already made designs on their walls by pressing cones of coloured clay into the coat of plaster in modern day Iraq. At around 300 BC, the Greeks made mosaics of different coloured stones. Mosaic started to flourish in the Byzantine Empire. Smalti has been invented and it is produced in an almost unchanged way today. The concept of mosaic we know today is the same as 2000 years ago!



Mosaic were used to decorate churches and cathedrals to represent figures in bible. At the same time, craftsmen were able to create a refined form of housing decoration for nobles, rich people and authority figures with mosaic. It could be used in both interior and exterior because of its quality and durability. Mosaic signified wealth and power in imperialism, therefore a high standard of beauty was archived to highlight the owners' status.







The 2 basic formats, Opus tessellatum and Opus vermiculatum, are like today's on-site assembly and prefabrication. Opus patterns like regulatum, circumactum or spicatum came later. The more specific the mosaic design is, the better the result.



The flexibility in use of materials and infinite possibility of combination make mosaic a preferable element for contemporary surface design. Today we can find contemporary mosaic in different forms, including exterior surface, interior decoration, floor pattern, individual art piece... It is an art and a craft that remains lively for a few thousand years!

# TYPES OF SMALTI

Smalti is the traditional hand-cut crystal glass. Its magnificent colours are what distinguish it from other normal glasses. With company secret formulas, Smalti can be created in only 3 companies in the world, which are the only 3 companies mosaicstudio.eu works with. With different design pattern, colour palette use, and different site conditions, 3 cuts of Smalti can be selected. They are **Byzantine**, **Piastrina** and **Antique Cut**.



**Byzantine Cut** varies from 5-7mm thick. The variation creates a rugged surface which reflect light from different angles, making the mosaic sparkles under light sources. Its quality is revealed best when used as wall decoration.

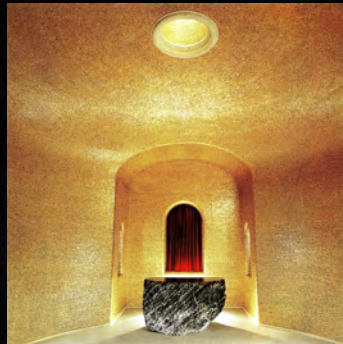


**Piastrina Cut** varies from 4-5mm thick. It has a relatively flat surface. Piastrina Smalti making it also possible to be used as flooring.



**Antique Cut** varies from 5-7mm thick. It has a relatively flat mosaic surface characterized with irregular cutting edge. It can also be used as flooring.

Orsoni was founded by Angelo Orsoni in 1888 in Venice. It offers 3000 colours including special matt, transparent and 24K gold collections. A panel showcasing their colour options in the 1889 universal exhibition in Paris attracted Antoni Gaudi to replace painted ceramics with mosaic made with Orsoni's enamels in the spires of the Sagrada Familia.



24K Gold Mosaic Room



Mosaici Dona Murano was founded in 1926 by the Dona family in Murano, the famous glass island to the North of Venice.

Mosaicos Venecianos de Mexico (MVM) was founded by Elpidio Perdomo in Cuernavaca, Mexico in 1949. It offers more than 500 colour options. Using raw materials from Mexico and irregular cuts gives its smalti a touch of the enthusiasm of America.

# WORKS WE DO

## **Customized Contemporary Design**

We can cooperate with architects and interior designers to make design for newly refurbished buildings.

We can insert a mosaic onto an finished surface according to the real situation.

We can design a mosaic as an individual art piece of any size as if it is a painting made of glass.

We can make decorating stripes or tiles that enrich a finished wall surface.

We can make transparent mosaic backed with glass as a coloured filter of light.



## **Restoration & Replica**

We can restore damaged mosaics or make a replica of an existing one.



## **Special Home Decorating Collections**

We have designer collections to decorate your lovely home! The current 3 collections are Tile to Love, House Numbers and Wall Decorating Stripes.

They are available in our online store, <http://mosaicstudio.eu/shop>.

### 1. Tile to Love !

This series of tiles with lovely animals are of 300 x 300 mm. It can be replacement of tiles on any surface in your home. It can also be framed as a picture to increase some playfulness of your place!



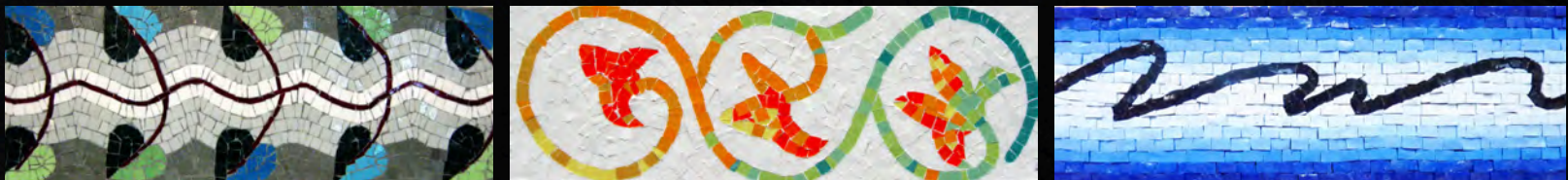
### 2. House Numbers

This series of house number panels are of 150 x 150mm. You can choose a font for the numbers, colours, and even figures to be incorporated into the design.



### 3. Wall Decorating Stripes

We have 2 series of stripes, Eurozone and Oneliner, of 13 to 15mm width. They can be repeated in linear and form a decorating stripe of any length. For some designs, they are able to be repeated in 2 dimensions forming a wall paper pattern.



# PROCESS OF CREATION

## Byzantine Cut

1. Print the design image in real size
2. Match colours of glass with the design
3. Cut glass with hammer and glue them on a mesh placed above the image piece by piece
4. Trim the mesh along the gaps between enamels when the finished part reaches a deliverable size (roughly 1 square meter) and continue Step 3
5. Dry for 48 hours
6. Clean the Surface
7. Transport the mosaic to the site
8. Fix and polish the surface



## Piastrina & Antique Cut

Similar procedures are applied except that a mirrored design image is printed. The front surface of the smalti is fixed onto the paper with temporary glue in Step 3. Fibre panel is then glued on the back surface after the mosaic is finished. It can be turned upside-down with the design image removed. The whole panel is then grouted with cement.

# HOW TO ORDER

Interested clients can email or call any of our international agents. After receiving a request, we will examine the conditions of the site with architectural plans, measurements and photos. For newly built projects, we collaborate with architects or interior designers to incorporate the mosaic piece into their designs.



After making an agreement to start the project, we will make a site visit and discuss with clients about materials used and layout of Smalti. We are able to calculate a precise cost after this stage.



Subject to client's final approval, the order is confirmed and a contract is signed. The mosaic will be created within the agreed time frame. In general, delivery takes place within 3 to 6 months after the order is placed.

Small Mosaics may take less time and some major projects may take more than a year to execute. Pieces smaller than one square meter are made as one panel. Larger designs (e.g. for walls and floors) are delivered in several panels and fixed together on site by our professional staffs.

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Please browse <https://www.mosaicstudio.eu/> for more information.