



**eva**

**ELEMENTARY VISUAL ARTS**

Park City Education Foundation • Kimball Art Center

LESSON

**8**

**Art and the Environment**  
**Laurel True**  
**Mosaics**

## LESSON OVERVIEW

Art and the Environment is the focus of this lesson. Students will learn about Laurel True, an artist, educator and community builder based in New Orleans. She has been creating architectural, public and community-based mosaic art for almost 25 years. Working with ceramic tile, glass, mirror and recycled building materials such as brick, concrete and asphalt, she designs and creates murals and sculptural forms for public, commercial and residential settings, and as street art around the globe. In the style of True, students will use recycled materials to make mosaic art.

### INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Learn about Laurel True and her mosaic work.
- Learn about art and community engagement.
- Create a mosaic image using recycled materials.
- Increase awareness about the environment.

### SUPPLIES

- Old magazines, colored paper, newspaper.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Pencils and markers.
- Bristol paper.
- Black and White images for students to mosaic with recycled materials.

### LAUREL TRUE



Laurel True (1968-present) is an American artist, architectural artist, muralist and mosaic artist. True is the founder of one of the first formal mosaic institutes in the United States, Institute of Mosaic Art. True's career began in 1990 with an apprenticeship with outsider mosaic artist Isaiah Zagar working on site-specific architectural mosaics and evolved into one focused on large-scale public and community mosaic projects. An instructor and lecturer in the US since the mid-1990s, True maintains an active studio practice and travels through her organization, The Global Mosaic Project, to work on public projects involving local communities. She states, "I believe in equity and social justice. I believe that well-being and environmental beautification are social justice issues. Witnessing the positive ripple effect of socially engaged art is life affirming and heartening on so many levels."

[Learn More](#)



## LESSON PLAN

Introduce students to the idea that art can bring about awareness of important ideas, issues, places. etc. This month we focus on art and the environment. Talk about how using recycled materials to create art and beauty has positive impacts as does using art to bring people together around beautifying the environment or environmental issues.

With this focus, introduce the work of Laurel True and how she uses mosaic art to bring beauty, hope and engagement to communities worldwide. Her medium uses many recycled materials. Tell students they will be creating their own mosaic art using recycled materials in the style of True.

1. Show students samples of True's work and talk about mosaic art. Look at how many different types of materials can be used to create a mosaic piece. Emphasize that the individual mosaic pieces create an entire cohesive image.
2. Give students magazines, newspapers, and colored paper to cut up into small pieces. Group colors together such as reds, blues etc.
3. Teachers may choose to give black and white images (see sample below) or have students draw and outline their own images. These will be used for the student mosaic pieces.
4. Have students map out their image as to what colors, patterns etc. they would like to use. They will begin their mosaic with recycled materials and glue them on piece by piece. When finished talk about the process and the images that they created to positively impact the environment.





<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/468233692490775508/>

### Student samples



<http://www.teachkidsart.net/mosaics/>

### KEY IDEAS THAT CONNECT TO VISUAL ARTS CORE CURRICULUM:

Based on Utah State Visual Arts Core Curriculum Requirements (3rd Grade) Click on links to see more.

[Standard 3.V.CR.1](#)

[Standard 3.V.CR.5](#)

[Standard 3.V.CR.2](#)

[Standard 3.V.R.1](#)

[Standard 3.V.CR.3](#)

[Standard 3.V.R.3](#)

### ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Click on links to learn more.

- <https://www.kinderart.com/recycle/magmos.shtml>
- <http://truemosaics.com>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurel\\_True](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurel_True)
- <http://www.how-to-make-mosaics.com>

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