

▪ GLOSSARY

ANDAMENTO

The visual flow and direction within a mosaic produced by the placement and arrangement of the tesserae.

BOZZETTO

A small-scale design created as a preparation for a large mosaic.

CEPPO

This is the block onto which the tagliolo, the hardie used to cut mosaic, is mounted.

MARTELLINA or hammer

Steel hammer with tungsten carbide tips. Used to cut the tesserae into the desired shape using the tagliolo.

BYZANTINE MOSAIC

Mosaic technique used between 476 and 1425 AD

CLASSIC MOSAIC

Mosaic technique used between the 5th Century BC and 323 BC.

CONTEMPORARY MOSAIC

Mosaic technique used between 1914 and the present day.

COSMATESQUE MOSAIC

Mosaic technique derived from the Opus Sectile, which takes its name from the Cosmati family, active artisans in Rome between 1100 and 1200.

HELLENISTIC MOSAIC

Mosaic technique used between 323 BC and 31 BC.

MODERN MOSAIC

Mosaic technique used between 1425 and 1914.

ROMAN MOSAIC

Mosaic technique used between 27 BC and 476 AD.

OPUS

Latin work word meaning work or job.

GOLD

A very thin sheet of yellow gold or platinum enclosed between two pieces of transparent glass. It can change the colour gradation if the colour of the glass is changed.

ADHESIVE

The substance that sticks tesserae to the provisional or definitive backing.

PIASTRA

A disc that is rectangular in shape, variable in size and thickness, made by compressing the liquid glass (smalto) using a press).

PINZETTA

Tweezers or pincers used to position very small tesserae.

PIZZA

A round disc, similar to a pizza in shape, variable in size and thickness, made by compressing the liquid glass (smalto) using a press.

SMALTI

Coloured or opaque mass of glass created by smelting at 1200-1400 °C. Smelted smalto is subsequently compressed to obtain pizzas. They can be sold whole or cut into different shaped tesserae.

BACKING

The base onto which the mosaic is stuck. It can be made from wood, cement, plastic, steel, fibreglass mesh, etc.

TAGLIOLO or hardie

This is an iron hardie or wedge mounted on a ceppo or wooden block. It is used to cut tesserae only with the martellina.

TESSERAE

Basic element or smallest unit of the mosaic (tessera). They can be made from natural materials (stones such as marble, limestone, etc.) or artificial materials (glass smalto, ceramics, etc.), cut using the martellina.

TUNGSTEN CARBIDE

Used to give greater resistance to the martellina tips.