



James Johnson – Hackney Mosaic Project

Leo, 2017

Mosaic

20 x 20 cms

Hackney Mosaic Project was set up by the renowned mosaic artist Tessa Hunkin, who guides the work of a team of dedicated volunteers. Some are referred by Lifeline (a charity aiding recovery from drug and alcohol addiction), others have mental health issues, and yet others are members of the local community. Everybody works together on a shared task in an informal and friendly social group. Beginners and regulars, skilled and unskilled – all have a valuable contribution to make.

The primary focus of the project has been to make large-scale mosaics for public spaces in Hackney (and further afield). These can be seen in Shepherdess Walk Park, Hackney Downs, Levy Memorial Garden, Albion Parade, and St Paul's Recreation Ground West Hackney, among others. The lion house at London Zoo (ZSL) incorporates a large work by the group, and the new Packington Estate in Islington also features a mosaic pavement in Canalside Square. The group has also made another piece for ZSL, this time at Whipsnade Zoo's African wild dog enclosure (although this is not tile mosaic, but a chainlink fence installation).

As well as working together on the large projects, individuals in the group make smaller works – on commission, for their own homes or for exhibition and sale. Proceeds from these works is ploughed back into the project; the mosaicists make the pieces for love of the work and as therapy, not for profit. Five such works have been lent to the Art Library: *Sagittarius* by Linda Green, *Cancer* by Gabi Liers, *Taurus* by Mary Helena, *Leo* by James Johnson, and *Magpies* by Ken Edwards.

Hackney Mosaic Project welcomes new commissions, large or small. You can get in touch at hackneymosaic@gmail.com or call Tessa Hunkin on 079530 696 560. Alternatively please drop in to one of the Saturday sessions – for more information go to <http://www.hackney-mosaic.co.uk/>

More of Tessa Hunkin's work can be seen in Westminster Cathedral where she has installed a number of very large, magnificent mosaics – you can read more here as an example: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/2011/08/let-there-be-light/>