



• CRAFT/PROFESSION

Marie-Hélène BIZE-MATTEI makes handcrafted pottery; she also creates designs in stained glass and ceramics, and makes fused-glass jewellery.

She creates her mosaics using a very specific technique, first cutting out shapes in clay which are left to dry before being given an initial firing at 1010°C for ten hours. They are then glazed and given a second firing at the same temperature, also for 10 hours.

Marie-Hélène uses a glass fusing technique at 800°C to create jewellery glowing with transparent colour - pendants, necklaces and rings, and also decorative items - lamps, clocks and dishes.

Marie-Hélène is keen to share her expertise and the work she does with clay (modelling, stamping, slab building, slip decoration (coloured clays) on glazed and unglazed clay designs, and gives pottery classes for adults and children (aged 12 and over) at her studio in Païta.

• BACKGROUND

Marie-Hélène's fascination for working with clay was inspired by her studies in pottery and ceramic

decoration. For over 15 years, she followed courses in ceramics in Brittany and in Aquitaine, and in stained glass in the Gard. In 2010, she gave up her job as a medical representative and threw herself into giving full expression to her art, designing and creating ceramic frescoes.

She gained her expertise and developed her skill and flair by completing several courses in glass fusing and the methods used to make glass beads and metal clay paste jewellery. She broadened her artistic scope and now designs a wide range of craft articles, all reflecting her personal style and vision.

• INSPIRATION AND ART/DESIGNS

“Creating things is an essential part of my life and I love variety in my work” explains Marie-Hélène, who also makes terracotta bas relief tiles and designs house name and number signs and decorative tiles with Delft, Mexican or Moroccan patterns.

She draws her inspiration from the hues and tints of nature and her own research and reading of specialist books. But she is insistent that her creative work is driven by instinct and feeling. Her favourite designs are ceramic boxes, large-scale mosaics and sculptures.

