ARTS AWARD

BRADING ROMAN VILLA

LIFT THE LID ON ISLAND CULTURE

MOSAICS

Be inspired by the Villa's wonderful mosaics. Try your own temporary designs using the square grids and tiles available, take photos of what you make. You can also cut out squares of coloured paper to use or buy a proper kit with tiles and grout to use. (Staff at the Villa can organise mosaic workshops, call for more info.)

Contours and colour palette The Roman mosaics at the villa are special because they use colour and placement to create contours and 3d shaping. The tiles are muted tones and not especially bright becasue they were made from local clays. By using different tones of colour and placing the tiles in curves rather than grids the Romans managed to create figures and images that looked curved and 3 dimensional. Try to create your own contoured mosaic image in paper or card. Maybe get colour swatches from a DIY store so you have a selection of tones in one colour, or paint your own palette.

FURTHER INSPIRATION

Find out about other mosaic artists eg. look up the work of Cleo Mussi and her wonderful work using reclaimed ceramics www.mussimosaics.co.uk, and world famous Antoni Gaudi and his incredible organic styled architecture.

You can also visit **'mosaics in the wild'** around the Island - Yarmouth's magnificent historical timeline on the wall leading to Yarmouth Castle, the beach shelter in Freshwater Bay, 'Hygeia', goddess of health and symbol of Ventnor on Ventnor Bandstand and Ventnor Past and Present in Ventnor central car park. Find out who made them. There are plenty of others, keep your eyes peeled and look at your feet in shop doorways too!

REMEMBER
show everything you have done: take photos, write notes, keep flyers and anything else to share your activty and what you feel about it.

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EXQUISITE CORPSE

In the 1920's Surrealist artists developed the old game of picture consequences into 'Exquisite Corpses' which they used to create strange and spontaneous collaborative compositions. To create your exquisite corpse you'll need to work with a group. Secretly draw a 'head and neck' on a piece of paper, fold it so only the neck shows and pass to your right. Everyone then draws a 'body' down to the top of the legs, folds and passes to the right. Finally all draw 'legs' to 'feet' and take it in turn to reveal your creations.

Unique to Brading Roman Villa is the Cock-headed man. We don't know who or what he was. Research on his uniform suggests he was either a Gladiator trainer or looked after animals. In a group, using the Exquisite Corpse techniques create your own mythical, magical creatures – half human half animal. Inspired by the Cock-headed man give the creature a uniform. Be as inventive as you can! After the big reveal give your creation a name and a job to do, what myth can you dream up about it?

Further Inspiration: Look up exquisite corpse drawings and collages by other artists as well as Michael Landy's Saints Alive figures, re-imagined from fragments of National Portrait Gallery paintings. Try the game again using different 'rules' for each part of the body and spend longer on each part of the drawing. Try changing the scale of your drawings too.

MODERN GROTESQUES

Within the villa lies a brilliantly preserved mosaic of Medusa, installed as an apotropaic symbol. Apotropaic means something meant to have the power to avert evil influences or bad luck, a device like the magic eye designed to ward off and repel evil. Other apotropaic devices in architecture include gargoyles, which divert rain water, and grotesques, fantastical decorative figures fusing humans and beasts.

Research, design and build your own modern gargoyle taking inspiration from local Churches and contemporary examples in video games and film. Scotland's **Paisley Abbey** and France's **Chapelle de Bethléem** sport great contemporary examples. Your grotesque should have exaggerated features including a wide mouth and bulging eyes. It might even display a bare bottom!

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