

### Sosus of Pergamon

Sosus of Pergamon is one of the few mosaic artists from Roman times that we know about. He is the only such artist mentioned in Roman literature.

Sosus lived in the second century BC.

We know his work was admired at the time because his designs were copied by other makers of mosaics. To have any mosaic was a sign of wealth and status, and having one made by Sosus may have been like owning fine art today.

## Roman Mosaics



### Known Works of Sosus



*The Unswept Floor*



*Doves Drinking from a Bowl*

### Mosaics showing Roman myths



This mosaic of Medusa the Gorgon was discovered at Bignor, as part of a Roman Villa made of 65 rooms. Its central image is in a circular, looped border.

### Mosaics showing daily life



Historians use original Roman artworks, such as this mosaic of a hunting scene, to learn about Roman Britain.

### Mosaics showing real people



This damaged mosaic shows Alexander the Great, and is a good example of how realistic mosaics made of tiny tesserae could be. It is from the floor of the House of Faun, in Pompeii.

### Key Vocabulary

Mosaic	A design made of small pieces of material fixed with grout.
Tesserae	Small pieces of glass or marble from which the mosaic is built.
Interstice	The space or joint between the tesserae.
Keystoning	The art of cutting tesserae to fit smoothly around a curve.
Villa	A Roman farmhouse or country house which could be quite extravagant.
Base	The surface onto which the tesserae will be fixed.
Grout	Mixture used to fill the interstice between the tesserae.
Scoring	Creating a precise scratch across the surface of a tile to help with neat cutting.
Hammer and hardie	Traditional mosaic-cutting tool.

### Year 4 Knowledge Organiser

## Collage

- Experiment with techniques, such as effects to show perspective.
- Question and make thoughtful observations about starting points and select ideas to use in their work.
- Adapt their work according to their views and describe how they might develop it further.

### Other Media

Originally, Roman mosaics were made as permanent decorations for wealthy Romans' homes, and had to be made of robust materials, especially if they were to form the decoration on the floor. Nowadays, other materials can be used, such as paper (see *Nymphaea*, right).

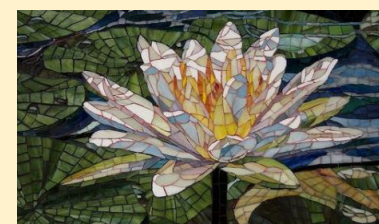
### Examples of Modern Mosaics



*Beyond Oceans* (2018)  
Julie Sperling



Luca Barberini



*Nymphaea* (detail)  
Judy Diamond