

## **G.A.T.E.WAYS invites artistically talented Year 5 and 6 students to**

### **MOSAIC MAGIC! at Montsalvat**

**G.A.T.E.WAYS** is an independent organization offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Established in 1994, G.A.T.E.WAYS runs a range of stimulating school programs as well as the Saturday *Brainwaves Club*.

Hidden away on a beautiful quiet hillside in Eltham is Montsalvat, an enchanting haven of studios and galleries for artists and art lovers of all ages! Less than a century ago in the 1930's, Justus Jørgensen, founder/artist of Montsalvat built and fostered a creative haven where artists could live and work. Today, this original site still prides itself as a place where art is made, taught and exhibited.

G.A.T.E.WAYS is excited to offer artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in a unique immersion program to be held in this historic, working artist colony, right here in Melbourne!

For two full days students will work in one of the original spaces, discovering and being inspired by the surroundings, buildings and gardens to produce a beautiful piece of mosaic art. Each student will produce their own individual 'one of a kind' bird bath/ feeder using broken tile mosaics, stones and pebbles, found items and memory ware.

#### **Day One: A Modernist Genius**

We will be inspired by the famous, ground-breaking Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí (1852 – 1926) whose highly original buildings and parks are truly awe-inspiring. His works, which were informed by his passions - architecture, mathematics, nature, and religion - all draw crowds of tourists to Barcelona.

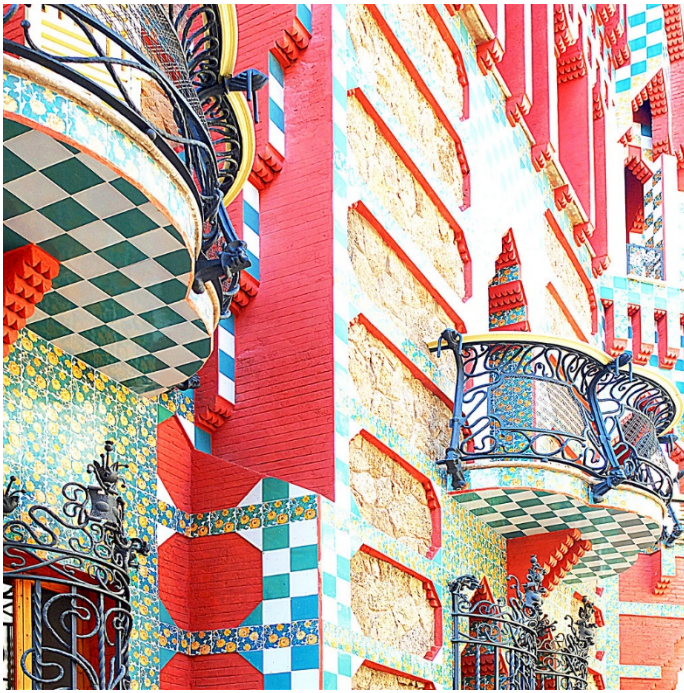


We will begin our day by looking at some of these works including the Sagrada Família, Guell Palace, Guell Park, Casa Mila, Casa Vicens and Casa Batllo. One of Gaudí's main inspirations was the natural world and one can see the influence of nature in the organic-like shapes and natural curved construction stones (think for example, caves, waves, coral formations) as well as the colourful, decorative mosaic work which often include animals, insects and plants. His most famous work is the Sagrada Família in Barcelona which has been under construction for 150 years and will be completed in approximately 2026.

Following this exploration, and inspired by Gaudí, we'll design a bird bath/feeder which incorporates organic natural shapes, free flowing form, imaginative colours and unusual materials. We'll also use Gaudí's own techniques in the treatment of materials, such a trencadis (pique assiette), or the using of broken tile mosaics, bits and pieces, memoryware, and shardware (a type of mosaic made from cemented-together tile shards and used waste ceramic pieces chinaware).

#### **Day Two: The Plate Thief (pique assiette)**

Today we will use our materials to bring our designs to life using the pique assiette ('plate thief') method, which is a term for this mosaic technique. It refers to the use of recycled or 'scrounged' nature of the materials. Artists working in this form may create random designs, pictorial scenes, geometric patterns, or a hybrid of any of these. We'll complete our designs by using found materials like glass stones or beads, and other small materials like buttons and shells, broken china and various glass and porcelain tiles.



## Requirements Please bring:

- a well-stocked pencil case including a pencil, ruler, a pair of scissors
- 3 or 4 take away containers.
- 2/3 kitchen sponges
- a smock or old shirt to protect your clothes
- lunch and snacks for the day

Feel free to bring any coloured porcelain/glass tiles, colourful patterned plates, findings (preferably not plastic), special stones/ buttons/shells, marbles or beads if you have any available.

## Levy

This program has a \$25 materials' levy

## About the presenter

**Debi Cohen** has run art program at a number of schools around Melbourne. She is known known for her design skills and most recently has been involved in fashion. Debi is totally passionate about art and fostering creativity in children's lives. She believes in the importance of integrating creativity and the arts into all areas of learning and in assisting children to develop their artistic skills.

