

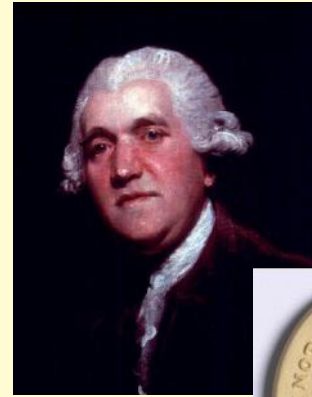


**PATHWAYS TO  
WELLBEING**

# Piecing together a Vase!

**THE  
HOLBURNE  
MUSEUM**

Sir William Holburne's collection of decorative art includes fine ceramics made at Wedgwood's Etruria factory in Staffordshire between 1765 and 1800. Josiah Wedgwood (1730–1795) was the youngest of twelve children of a family of potters near Stoke on Trent. He made thousands of vases sold as ornaments for fashionable neoclassical interiors and announced his intention of becoming "Vase-Maker General to the Universe". He became very famous after developing a special clay body which he used to create his jasperware ceramic work (*see below*). Jasperware was a dense white stoneware which could be stained throughout with metal oxides to produce consistent blue, green, lilac or brown grounds, to which decorative low reliefs in a contrasting colour were applied. The clay used to create this Jasperware vase is made using cobalt oxide to give it a beautiful blue colour.



*Josiah Wedgwood  
portriat painted by  
Sir Josuhua Reynolds*



*Anti slavery cameo  
designed by Josiah  
Wedgwood*



Wedgwood studied ancient Greek and Roman pottery and based many of his vase shapes and designs on these. Look at the Greek 'key' pattern and band of repeating olive leaves which decorate the shoulders of this vase.

He became friends with anti-slavery campaigner Thomas Clarkson and supported the campaign by copying the design for the Wedgwood medallion (*seen above*) to support the cause. It is designed as a cameo, a small oval relief portrait, with the inscription 'Am I not a man and a brother?' The Wedgwood medallion was the most famous image of a black person in all of 18th-century art. The image was widely reproduced on domestic objects like crockery and also became popular on fashion accessories for both men and women.

## The Activity

To re-create a vase inspired by the amazing blue jasper ware vases developed by Josiah Wedgwood, mosaicing with the blue patterned inside of recycled envelopes.





## What will you need?

- White envelopes with blue patterns inside (*these are often official mail or bills*), or any coloured paper
- A 20cm/8" piece of stiff card, packaging card or cereal packet,
- Paper (*the same height but half the width of the card*)
- Ruler or straight edge
- Pencil
- Marker pen (for clearly drawing your vase profile)
- Scissors or craft knife (with cutting mat)
- Glue
- Inspiration images

## How to make your vase

1. Take your piece of card and draw a line down the middle with your ruler.
2. Make sure your paper is half the width but a similar height as your card.



3. Draw the profile of your vase onto your paper (*see left*) - This is like the profile of your face from the side - then cut it out.

4. Lay this profile template against the centre line of your card, draw along the profile edge then turn it over and draw it again so you now have the profile of both the left and right sides of your vase on the card before

- cutting out your vase shape. (*see right*)
5. Draw lines across your card to mark the line of the base, the lid, the neck of the vase or maybe where the pattern changes. These will mark the edges of your mosaic lines.



Use the template at the end of this sheet or design your own based on the profiles of Wedgwood vases

## Share a photo of what you make

Send it to [e.blythe@holburne.org](mailto:e.blythe@holburne.org) and checkout  
**Instagram #changing\_lives\_through\_art**  
to see some of the things people have made this week



6. Take your envelopes and cut into small pieces approximately 1-2cm in size, you can always cut them smaller to fit as you work. You could store them in a small pot next to where you are working.
7. Start to glue your envelope pieces onto your vase with a slight gap in between, like a mosaic. If you set the pieces against any of the horizontal lines you've drawn and against the edges too. You can always cut pieces to fit. You can use the different patterns of different envelopes or the white side to create more definition of the pattern. You can also cut out white patterns to lay on after you've done the mosaicing.
8. To stand your vase up, cut two slits in the base about 1-2cm from each end, then cut two small pieces of card about 5cm long and cut a slit about half way up and slot them onto the base of your vase at rightangles. Your vase should now stand up!  
*(see examples below)*
9. You can create more than one and build up your own collection of vases using different patterns and colours of envelope.



**HAVE FUN!**



### Links to some further information and inspiration

**Holburne Wedgewood collection info** - <https://www.holburne.org/wedgwood-vase/>

**Wedgewood Museum website** - <http://www.wedgwoodmuseum.org.uk>

#### Mosaic artists

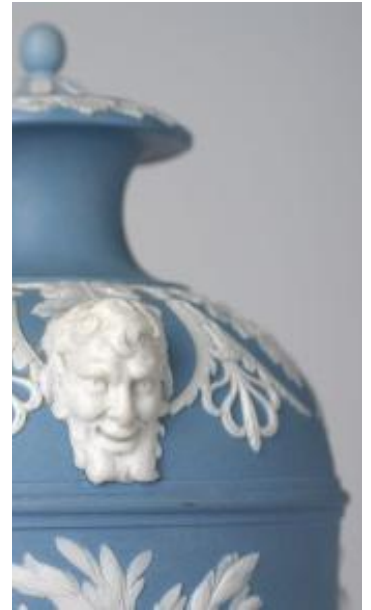
**Jim Anderson**

<http://www.kenya-mosaic.com>

**Cleo Mussi**

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/jacksonmamaw/cleo-mussi-mosaic/>

# Inspiration



This vase (left and detail above) is from the Holburne Museum's collection and was made between 1765-1800. William Holburne was known to have one of the most substantial collections of Wedgwood ceramics which he lent to various public exhibitions during the later part of the 19th century.

Images below are other examples of Wedgwood not in the Holburne collection.

