



PATHWAYS TO  
WELLBEING

## Botanical Butterflies & Bugs!

THE  
HOLBURNE  
MUSEUM

**Sydney Gardens** is one of Britain's remaining Georgian Pleasure Gardens, situated behind the Holburne Museum in Bath. It opened in 1795 and was a favourite spot of **Jane Austen**. Sydney Gardens were open to anyone who could afford the entry fee. Thrilling entertainments such as grand firework displays, acrobats, dancing, concerts and balloon ascents awaited in the evenings, or during the day one might take tea, walk the gardens, read the London papers and dine in one of the outdoor shelters known as Supper Boxes. You could also play cards, gamble and drink at the Sydney Hotel (*now the Holburne Museum*) or attend dances in the grand ballroom. Along with all of the entertainment on offer, a visit to a Pleasure Garden was the time to mix and socialise with minimal supervision, and maybe meet a potential partner.



Not far from the city centre, many visitors and locals alike take a break from the busyness of central Bath. It has direct access onto the **Kennet and Avon Canal** and the **Great Western Railway** also runs through the gardens. Beautiful bridges and paths lead you around the gardens. You can watch canal boats and trains passing through, spend time with the beautiful historic trees, plants and wildlife, explore the listed buildings and walk the paths or stop and sit for a while.

### The Activity

To create Bugs and Butterflies from natural materials you find outside in your garden, park or local area. Using petals, twigs, leaves and seedpods you can design your own bugs or recreate ones you find. **THEN** you can draw your bug and create a design for a plate incorporating other drawn flowers or trees too. *Please do **NOT** pick things that are growing in parks, but collect dropped leaves, petals & seedpods.*



## What will I need?



- Collection of leaves, petals, twigs, seedpods etc.
- Blank pieces of paper
- Camera or phone to take photos
- Circular object - like a plate - to draw around
- Pencil
- Watercolours or coloured pencils to add colour
- Glue



## How to create your critters

**This can be done indoors or out. If you're outside and it's windy, find a sheltered spot to work**

1. Look out for creatures while you are out, bees buzzing around flowers, bugs crawling on the ground or up and down trees and plants, butterflies fluttering, spiders in webs and dragonflies on water.
2. Notice what they look like. The shapes of their bodies, the patterns on their bodies and wings. Do they have antennae? How many legs have they got? Are they long and spindly or thicker and strong or maybe they have hairs on them or are furry like a bumble bee?
3. Now use the things you've collected to create your own creature?

**Be curious, look around you at all the wonderful flowers and insects, trees and plants.**

**Listen to the birds and watch the clouds passing.  
Soak it all in and Breathe!**

4. Gently lay your petals, twigs, leaves and seeds onto your paper and play around with the shapes you make until you are happy.
5. Now take a photo - you can start all over again re-creating more creatures OR stop and draw them as you go.

### **DRAWING YOUR CREATIONS**

1. Draw around your plate or circle to create your plate shape and cut the circle out.
2. Draw directly onto the plate or onto another piece of paper, looking carefully at your bugs to reproduce them. You could just draw flowers, plants or vegetables if you'd rather.
3. Use colour to make them come to life. You can cut out your images to stick onto your plate shape if you'd rather.
4. **HAVE FUN!**

Bee investigating a poppy



Butterfly and bug from found natural materials. With berries as eyes and stalks as legs



## Share a photo of what you make

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



# Inspiration and Examples

Bugs created by artist Nora Fok from found natural materials including petals, seed heads, twigs, leaves etc. See here - Spider, Damselfly, gerbera Butterfly, Quaking moth.



Below, two nature inspired plates from high street store Anthropologie

Right, two 18th century nature inspired Chelsea porcelain plates



**Links to Sydney Gardens website & more**

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks-opening-times-and-locations/sydney-gardens>

**Nora Fok's bugs from natural materials**

<https://www.norafok.com/archive/?p=2>

**Botanical Art and Artists**

<https://www.botanicalartandartists.com/what-is-botanical-illustration.html>

**Mindful Botanical drawing How To video by Jessica Singerman**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbO6Q2KQv\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbO6Q2KQv_c)

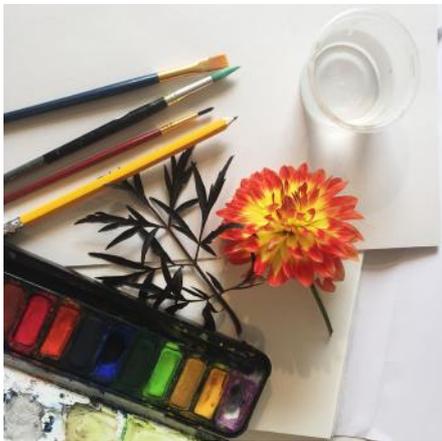


&klevering plate from set of 4

# Drawing your nature finds

## What will I need?

- Flowers, petals, seedpods, berries, leaves and twigs OR your nature made creatures
- Pencil
- Paper
- Coloured pencils, watercolour paints or inks (you could make your own using berry juice)
- Paintbrush and water

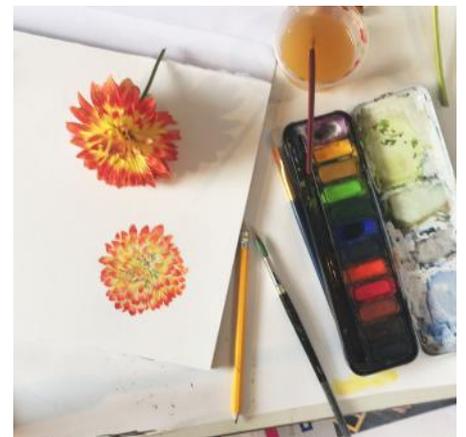


Place your flowers, leaves, seed heads and leaves in front of you. Use a pencil to draw as you look at their shapes.

Gently build up colour with watercolours or crayons, light colours first overlaid with darker colours until you get the strength of colour you are happy with.

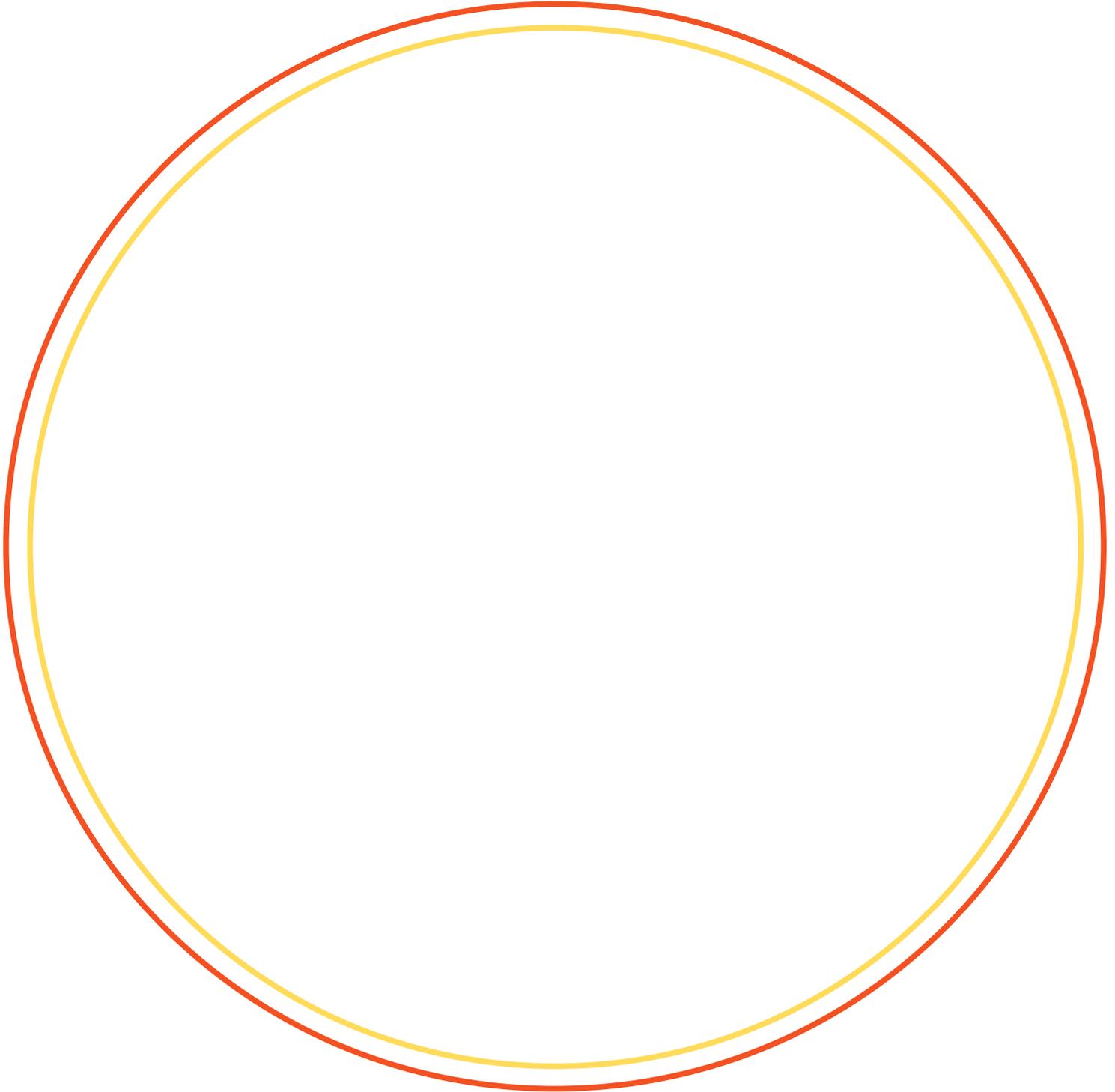
Add shadows remembering that shadows are the opposite colour - here the opposite colour of yellow is purple.

These can be painted directly onto your plate template or cut out and stuck on.



# **Plate template to cut out**

If you have a printer you can print this out,  
If not you could draw around a plate to get your circle



## **REMEMBER**

Spend time looking for things that you find pleasing.  
If you do this you will enjoy drawing what you see,  
including the textures, shapes and shadows.

Then send your images to [c.dunkley@holburne.org](mailto:c.dunkley@holburne.org)