**14 Day drawing challenge focussing on changes within nature during Autumn.**

Purpose:

For Visual Art, we are linking to your inquiry into What is in your Backyard.

*“I have learned that what I have not drawn, I have never really seen and that when I start drawing an ordinary thing, I realise how extraordinary it is, sheer miracle.”* Frederick Frank “*The Zen of Seeing”*

Your Visual Art challenge is a little like a daily meditation… it should encourage you to look carefully at plants within your backyard and to settle into the space of creating some drawings that reflect your observations about changes in nature during Autumn.

Focus:

Choose a plant in your garden or in your immediate environment to focus on. This could be a tree with leaves changing colour, a flower or shrub, a vegetable or even a weed growing. Focus your attention onto your chosen plant during the next 14 days by making a drawing a day for 10-15 mins or longer if you need. You could use the following drawing strategies we have explored previously in the art studio to observe detail. For example:

1. **Blind Contour**. You could start with Blind Contour. (This strategy will help you to focus your attention onto the object you are drawing **without looking at your paper.** Using Blind Contour stops you constantly judging what you are drawing).

\*Watch the Youtube clip if you are unfamiliar with this strategy or to remind you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKHVqbM_xLU> The most important thing to remember is to look just at the object, not your paper.

1. **Non Dominant Hand**. You could move onto using Non Dominant Hand. (This is a useful strategy that helps to free up your drawing and encourages risk taking).

**\***Watch the Youtube clip if you are unfamiliar with this strategy or to remind you. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIm-AE--pqU> Remember with this strategy you can **look at the paper but you are using the hand that you don’t usually draw or write with.**

\*Both strategies will help you to warm up your drawing skills and focus attention onto details observed on your chosen plant.

1. **Look, Draw, Check.** From here you could move onto longer time spent on a drawing using the observation strategy that encourages you to look carefully, make some marks on your paper and then check back before you draw more detail. (Remember with this strategy you are drawing from observation not from imagination or memory, you are looking at the plant, your paper, flicking your eyes between the plant and what you are drawing onto the paper and using your usual hand that you draw with).

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**Tools and Tips:** Use the A4 sheets to practise Blind Contour & Non Dominant Hand. Use the folded A3 sheets for your Look, Draw, Check drawing. Make a drawing a day if you can in one section of the folded paper either in landscape or portrait and remember to date each drawing that you add to this paper every day. (See Demonstration)

Drawing Tools: Any drawing materials that you have available at home, eg:

2B, 4B, 6B pencils

Graphite

Pens

Permanent markers

Colour pencils

Water colour pencils

(Or a combination of these)

**Plants:** There are many options for how you might approach drawing the actual plant you choose.

For example:

* The whole plant drawn each day
* Same part of your plant drawn each day…this might be just a leaf that is changing slowly, or a flower or weed
* You could also draw from a different angle or perspective, draw at different times of the day with different lights and shadows.