

The New
Art Gallery
Walsall

Whimsical Woodland Creatures

by Kate Tilley

Autumn is wonderful! With it's colourful leaves, and all of the great seeds, pods & nuts on the trees and plants! Why not get outside & explore some local nature to make these quirky, Autumn animals.



Inspired by Theodore
Garman's 'Autumn Still Life'



Materials:

Nature bits, like twigs, seed pods, leaves, petals, pine cones and/or nuts.
(don't forget to take a bag to put them in)

Modelling material, clay or dough types.

Scissors.

Something like a lolly stick to help you press and smooth the clay.

Some cloth or newspaper to work on top of.



So first it's time to get outside and find some nature!

You could go for a walk in a park. Or just a stroll down your street to see what you can find in the trees or on the ground.

(check with a grown up before you pick anything up though and never put it in your mouth)

If you've got a garden see what you can find there too. Don't forget to ask your grown up for permission first.

Look for leaves that are starting to change colour and fall.



Loose petals can come in handy too!



So can browning seed heads.



Then you can just start squashing on little bits of clay and push your bits of twig, leaf or pod in to it to start making a creature.



There are bits that are good for bodies...



...Or legs.



Wings...



...Or eyes.





Try this pinecone hedgehog with a clay head.

Or make a mouse or a rabbit starting with the same body.

These seeds are perfect wings for a dragonfly: Just press some clay onto the back of them and use a knobbly twig for the body.



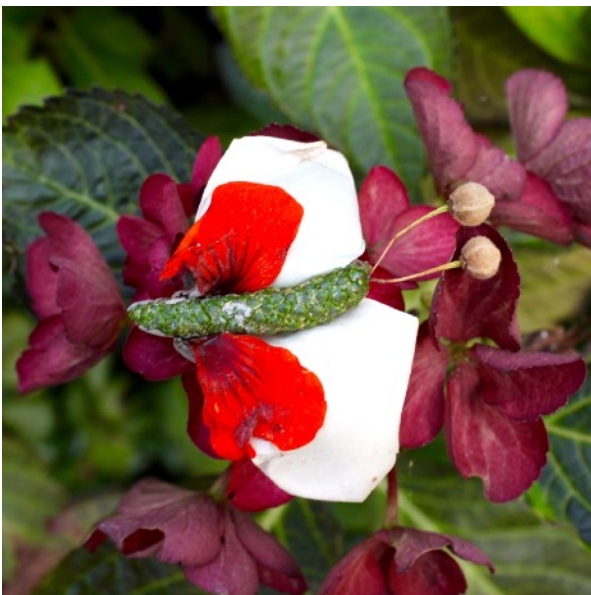
The shiny middles from these 'Honesty' leaves make perfect bee or fly wings.

This spiky sweet chestnut casing is great for my shrew's head.





Have fun and experiment with your materials, once you've created your creatures, it's time to release them back into the wild!





I wonder what they'll get up to!



These children's workshops have been created by our team of artist-educators and are available as films or downloadable worksheets on our website: www.thenewartgallerywalsall.org.uk/families-kids/childrens-online-digital-activities