

The Museum of Modern Art

Department of Communications

Art Lab: Nature

Floor 1, Education and Research Center
Ongoing

Discover how artists and designers are inspired by the natural world in a new multi-sensory installation. Create a nature-inspired design, draw and arrange natural materials, and explore our nature discovery boxes. All ages welcome. Art Lab is intended for individual visitors and families. We cannot accommodate groups in the lab.

Saturday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Friday, 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Zones of activity in this new space include:

Discovery Boxes

Specially designed tactile boxes invite visitors to open and explore what's inside. Activities include:

Make a texture rubbing: Create a rubbing of natural materials. Inspired by the art work of Max Ernst

Make a sculpture of an animal: Sculpt an animal or insect out of Model Magic. Inspired by the art work of Isamu Noguchi

Play with light: Play with a Little Sun lamp, colored blocks, mirrors and textures. Inspired by the design of Olafur Eliasson

Create an arrangement inspired by a natural pattern: Arrange wooden magnets into a natural pattern. Inspired by the art work of Robert Smithson

Create a butterfly drawing: Draw an abstract image of a butterfly. Inspired by the artwork of Mark Grotjahn

Make a mobile: Play with balance and the power of the wind. Inspired by the artwork of Lee Bontecou

Match drawings of bark: Play a matching and memory game with cards featuring drawings of bark. Inspired by the artwork of Alan Sonfist

Create your own camouflage pattern: Use stencils to create your own camouflage drawing. Inspired by the art work of Andy Warhol

Watch: Discover how a bowl can be made from the sun and sand, and vase can be made by bees.

Design Stations

Design an object inspired by nature: Look at objects inspired by the natural world, then create your own nature inspired designs with a variety of materials.

Arranging and Drawing Table

Explore Natural Materials: Touch, look closely, describe, arrange, sketch, and combine a variety of materials from nature.

Light and Reflection Table

Create a Reflective Arrangement: Place natural materials inside a mirror box. Combine materials to create different arrangements. Inspired by the art work of Robert Smithson

Create an Arrangement of Shapes and Colors: Look outside the window, or think of an object found in nature, like a flower, a tree, or an insect, then choose shapes that represent your object and arrange them on the light box. Inspired by the art work of Frank Lloyd Wright

Seasons Station

Watch a Film: Watch *Bridgehampton* by John Canemaker, then draw your own ideas about nature and the changing seasons.

Listening Station

Match sounds from nature with works of art: Listen to nature sounds, then choose an artwork on the screen that shows a place where you might hear the sound that is playing.

Book Shelves

Read from a variety of books for children and adults. Play with nature-inspired toys, puzzles and building materials.

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