



DRAWING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

APRIL FOOL - HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

During the Lockdown period, we have been invited to take a walk/get outside once a day. It is the most beautiful time of year, and wherever we are, and even if we just look out of the window, nature is in full force, as we enter Spring.

It's almost as if Nature has fooled us, into thinking we humans are invincible. But in reality, we're not. The laugh is on us.

Spring will happen regardless. This is a time to observe, the growth, a very different kind of growth - from the economic growth that has governed all of our lives and underpinned our values for the last three decades.

This is an invitation to closely observe in detail the budding and blossoming, and to reflect on what we were on course to jeopardise. Can we create beautiful drawings in April? Then transform them into designs, that we can share with others, to cherish and celebrate our natural world, and resolve to question our values in order to respect, protect, nurture the environment around us.

[Kinetika](#) is known for silk painting, and in time, these designs may be transformed onto silk scarves, that will serve as a memento to us all every time we wear them, to remember our place in nature and know that there is always hope and that we are all connected.

Everyone's invited!

This drawing Project is an invitation to small drawing groups, individuals, budding artists and all creative people to get involved.

So join our [Drawing Communities Together](#) Facebook Group, share your designs (by 20th April for Stage 1) and see what others have created! Then if you're inspired, you can turn your drawing into a batik design which could eventually become a unique silk scarf all of your own.

Three ways to get involved

Here are the three ways to get involved, but you don't need to do all of them:

- 1-20 April 2020 Stage 1: Draw a Spring inspired image, then share it online. (Free)
- 21-27 April 2020 Stage 2: Turn your drawing into a design for a silk scarf (Free)
- Date TBC Stage 3: Silk Painting Masterclass (Heavily discounted)

This project has been greatly inspired by **Ali Smith** and her novel [Spring](#), this is an extract:

*I'm the child who's been buried in leaves. The leaves rot down: here I am
Or picture a crocus in snow. See the ring of the thaw round the crocus? That's the door
open into the earth. I'm the green in the bulb and the moment of the split in the seed, the
unfurl of the petal, the dabber of the ends of the branches of trees with the green as if
the green is alight.*

*The plants that push up through the junk and the plastic, earlier, later, they're coming
regardless. The plant shifts beneath you regardless, the people in sweatshops, the people
out shopping, the people at desks in the light off their screens or scrolling their phones in
the surgery waiting rooms, the protesters shouting, wherever, whatever the city or
country, the light shifts, the flowers nod next to the places you live and the places you
drink yourselves stupid or happy or sad and the places you pray to your gods and the big
supermarkets, the people on motorways speeding past verges and scrubland like nothing is
happening. **Everything is.** The flowerheads open all over the flytip. The light shifts across
your divides, round the people with passports, the people with money, the people with
nothing, past sheds and canals and cathedrals, your airports, your graveyards, whatever
you bury, whatever you dig up to call it your history or drill down to use up for money, the
light shifts regardless.*

*The truth is kind of regardless.
The winter's nothing to me.
Do you think I don't know about power? You think I was born green?
I was.*

*Mess up my climate, I'll fuck with your lives.
Your lives are nothing to me. I'll yank daffodils out of the ground in December. I'll block
your front door in April with snow and blow down your tree so it cracks you roof open. I'll
carpet your house with the river.*

*But I'll be the reason your own sap is reviving. I'll mainline the light to your veins.
What's under your road surface now?
What's under your house's foundations?
What's warping your doors?
What's giving your world fresh colours?
What's the key to the song of the bird?
What's forming the beak in the egg?
What's sending the thinnest green shoots through the rock so the rock starts to split?*

We invite you to draw this new life. A life that will never be the same again.



Stage 1 - Draw a Spring Inspired Image

Taking place: 1- 20 April 2020

Share your drawing here: [Drawing Communities Together public Facebook Group](#).

You can use any size of paper and any medium for your drawings. Below we've suggested some starting points and drawing techniques to get you thinking about Spring. Try a few or work through them all. You'll find more '*Ideas to inspire your drawings*' on page 9.

1. You might like to start by drawing or sketching plants, flowers, herbs, trees, shrubs that are beginning to bud and bloom in and around your garden, in your window box or in a vase at home. Or you can be inspired by photos or book illustrations if you prefer.

Perhaps draw the stages of growth over a period of time.



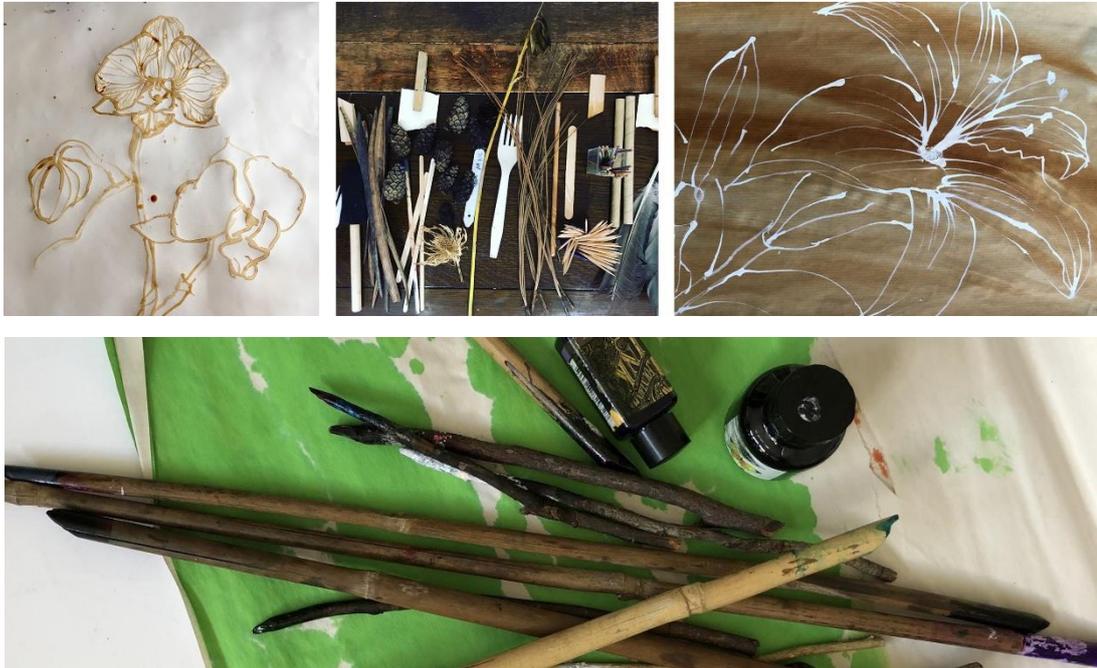
2. Draw on large paper if you have it, stick sheets of paper together, use the back of wrapping paper, or the front, brown paper, tracing paper, wallpaper, anything you have that you can draw on.

You could even make a collage surface to draw on using wrapping papers, tissue paper etc. Change the shape of the paper, rectangle, square, triangular. Draw large!



3. Try out different ways of drawing, here are some suggestions:

- Draw with a continuous line
- Draw with your non-dominant hand
- Draw with your eyes closed
- Draw the shadows
- Draw with sticks, or bamboo, or with a brush
- Create your own mark-making tools, challenge yourself to draw with something you've not tried before!



4. Draw close up, actual size. Draw small, draw large or mix up the scales together or overlap drawings on one page.

Let your drawings fill the page or have several drawings on one page.



5. Choose a theme for each drawing or combine themes.

Try one of these or create your own:

- Line
- Tone
- Light and shade
- Shadows or negative space
- Pattern
- Texture
- Shape
- Colour



6. Try using only outlines and then add colour later.

Experiment with all the different drawing mediums to hand. Pencil is a popular choice, but why not try a biro, felt pens, charcoal, graphite, coloured pencils and inks, pastels or even crayons. Try mixing some of these mediums together.



Photographing and sharing your drawings and designs

As part of this project we invite you to upload your drawings to the [Drawing Communities Together Facebook Group](#) as you go along. You will need to make a request to join the group. Please note this is a Closed but Public group.

Tips for taking photos of your drawings to upload:

- Place your piece of paper on the floor, ideally in natural light.
- Stand above it, trying not to cast a shadow
- Take your photo ensuring all the edges of the paper are in frame and that your photo has been taken square on to the paper.

Remember to share your Stage 1 drawings 1- 20 April 2020:

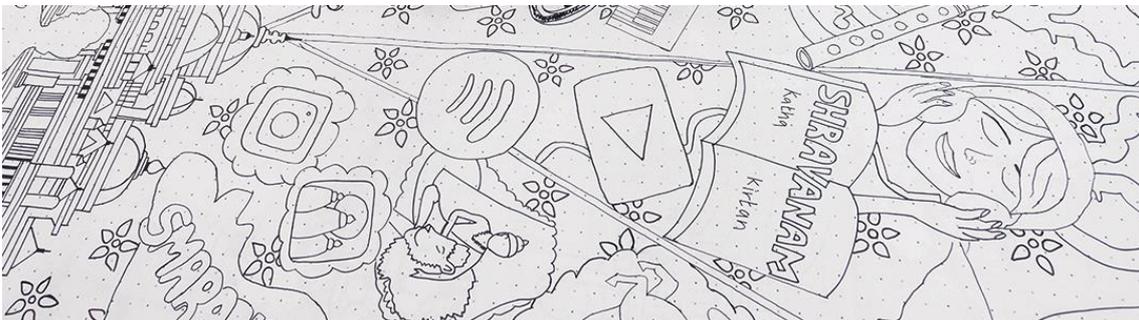
[Drawing Communities Together public Facebook Group](#)

Stage 2 - Turn your drawings into a silk scarf design

Taking Place 21st - 27th April 2020

If you choose to develop your drawings into a design, and you'd like yours to be included on the Kinetika website, **please submit your designs by 27th April** by sending a photo of your finished design to clare@kinetika.co.uk. The special page on the Kinetika website will go live on **1st May**.

1. Look at all the drawings you have created so far. You are going to select your favourite sketches and make one big design out of them, that could be used for batik. Batik is the process of drawing with wax onto fabric, and then dyeing it. The wax resists the dye and once the dye is dry, the wax can be removed, leaving the pattern.
2. For batik, using the drawings you've already made, you will create a design made with clear black lines on a white background, something like this:



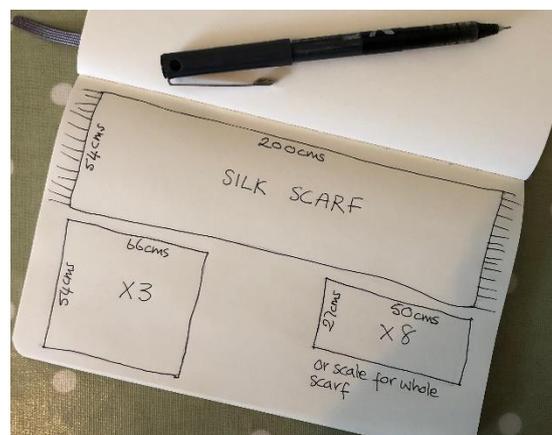
3. For reference, our silk scarves are 54 x 200cm (with fringed ends). So if you'd like to consider making an actual scarf at a later date, the design should be sized correctly so that would fit the silk. It is common for original designs to be smaller than the finished piece, and then repeated or scaled up when needed.

For our scarves, these are some design sizes that we know work, so pick one:

a) One large drawing covering the whole of the scarf design. Work on paper 13.5 x 50cm which can then be scaled up.

b) Three drawings **54 x 66cm**. These images could be interconnected, flowing into each other or divided up into 3 sections with patterns or borders between each design.

c) Eight drawings **27 x 50cm**. These images could be repeated or interconnected, flowing into each other or divided up into 8 sections with patterns or borders between each design.



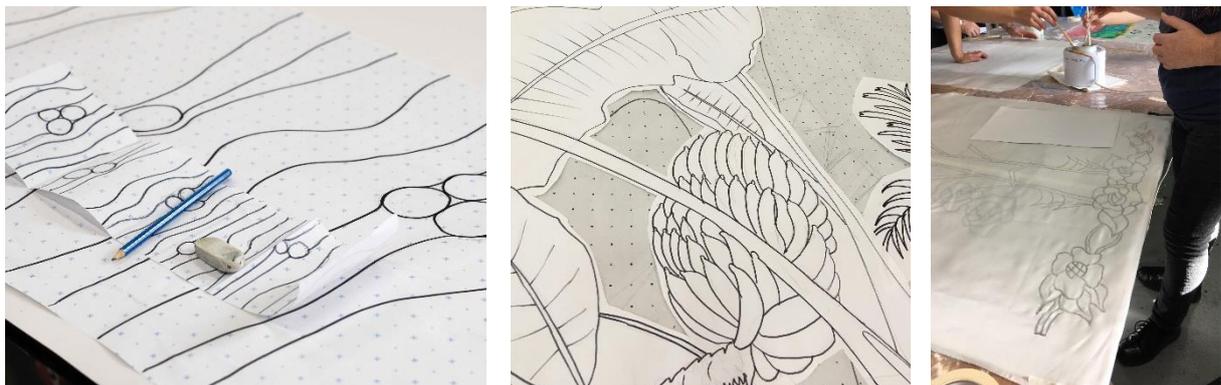
- To start, pick your favourite drawings so far, or even just a section of one. Think about which elements of the drawing you would like to include in your design or use the whole drawing if you wish.



- On a new piece of paper which is the right size (see point 3), re-draw the outlines of your design. Do not include colour. These outlines are the guidelines that are used to trace the batik pattern onto the silk with hot wax. So it's important that the lines of the pattern are very clear.

Start with pencil lines, but then once you are happy with the design, go over all your lines in black pen. At the Kinetika studio we use thin marker pens for this.

Once the black outlining is done, your scarf design is complete! So should you wish to make it into an actual scarf, this would be your pattern. If that interests you, check out Stage 3.



Photographing and sharing your drawings and designs

As for Stage 1, you are welcome to share your Stage 2 designs in the [Drawing Communities Together Facebook Group](#) as you go along.

An optional extra for Stage 2: if you'd like your design to be included on the Kinetika website, please submit your designs by 27th April to clare@kinetika.co.uk. Please send images as medium to high resolution if possible. The special page on the Kinetika website will go live on 1st May.

Stage 3 - Silk Painting Masterclass

A future date to get together, to turn your designs into a silk scarf using Kinetika's Batik process.

Ali Pretty will be running 5 subsidised masterclasses for groups at a special rate of £92.00 per person (the standard cost for the day masterclass is £165.00).

The masterclass will guide participants through the process of creating a unique silk scarf using their own design from Stage 2.

The price covers all materials, including a Murshidabad silk scarf, dimensions 2m x 54cm, processing of the silk to fix the dye and remove the wax, as well as lunch.

To register your interest in the masterclass please email clare@kinetika.co.uk before the 1st October 2020. If you are part of a drawing group, please include the name of your group.

Kinetika will coordinate the workshops once the current restrictions in the UK are lifted and will contact people that have expressed an interest with further information at that point.



Murshidabad Silk - Hand woven, heritage quality, undyed silk

While developing the Silk River project in India, Kinetika was introduced to a very fine, high quality 100% hand-woven silk from Murshidabad, a district in West Bengal.

We discovered that in the 18th century Murshidabad was world-famous for the heavy, durable but amazingly supple silk that was worn by the Moghul nobility and exported across the world by local merchants and traders to the South East Asian markets. This special grade of silk called dotari/teentari travelled to Europe, exported by the French and subsequently the British East India Company.

Sadly in more recent times, the demand has declined, and the specialist skills to create it are in danger of being lost.

However, Kinetika were very keen to work with this exquisite silk and through the Crafts Council of West Bengal (CCWB) were able to connect directly with the local weavers who still had the old looms and the required level of skill.

Kinetika are now one of the few UK importers and you can buy it directly from us:

[Buy Murshidabad Silk](#)

Further ideas to inspire your drawings

Here is another short extract from the inspiring book [Spring](#) by Ali Smith. You could use it as provocation, or inspiration for reflection and your drawings and designs.

April

It teaches us everything.

The coldest and nastiest of days of the year can happen in April. It won't matter. It's April.

The English word for the month comes from the Roman Aprilis, the Latin aperire: to open, to uncover, to make accessible, or to remove whatever stops something from being accessible. It may also partly come from the name of Aphrodite, Greek Goddess of love, whose happy fickleness with various gods mirrors the month's own showery fickleness. Month of sacrifice, month of playfulness. Month of restoration, of fertility-festivity. Months when the earth and the buds are already open, the creatures asleep for the winter have woken and are already breeding, the birds have already built their nests, that this time last year didn't exist, busy bringing life to the birds that'll replace them this time next year.

Spring-cuckoo month, grass month.

In Gaelic its name means the month that fools mistake for May. April Fool's Day also probably marks what was the old end of the new year celebrations. Winter has Epiphany. Springs Gifts are different.

Month of dead deities coming to life.

In the French revolutionary calendar, along with the last days of March, it becomes Germinal, the month of the return of the source, to the seed, to the germ of things, which is maybe why Zola gave the novel he wrote about hopeless hope this revolutionary title. April the anarchic, the final month, of spring, the great connective. Pass any flowering bush or tree and you can't not hear it, the buzz of the engine, the new life already at work in it, time's great factory.

**We invite you to draw this new life.
A life that now will never be the same again**

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