

Window gardens with slow art collective

We are the Slow Art Collective. We love to use materials and ideas from everyday life and incorporate them into our art practice. We believe art is about engaging with our daily environment and becoming more aware of connections and things that we live with.

Slow Art Collective is currently helmed by **Chaco Kato** and **Dylan Martorell** who invite other artists to work with them for special projects.

Today we are working with plants!

Learning about which plants surround you is an amazing thing to do. Which plants are edible, and which plants do bees, birds or possums like? Which plants have flowers and fruits and what times of the year do these plants like to activate? **Plants tell you a lot about the land you live upon, its people, and changes in the environment.**

Plants also provide fantastic material for artistic inspiration as they can be basic building blocks to create the most complex living systems! I would like to ask you to **go outside and see what you can find** around your house, in the garden, down at the park or along the nature strips. **Choose a wide variety of shapes, textures and colours** so that you have plenty to play with when you get home.

You will need

Flour glue

(made from flour and water in a pot). This can be any flour, like rice flour or corn flour

Grass, flowers, leaves

Brush

(small or medium). If you don't have a brush, don't worry, you can use your finger!

About Slow Art Collective

The Slow Art Collective are a group who use art as a social model for exploring the potential of improvised group activity using concepts of sustainability, ecology and self reliance. Their artistic practice encompasses everything from large scale participatory installations to individualised alternative therapy sessions using flowers and wooden mallets.

What to do

1

Make glue! Take 1-2 spoons of flour, cook with 100ml water until boiling, and keep stirring. You may need an adult to help with this part.



2



Watch Chaco Kato from Slow Art Collective make her glue.

3

Pick up flowers, leaves or even grass on a foraging walk. Ordinary, plentiful plants can work best, such as buttercups, dandelions, nasturtiums or daisies.

4

Use a brush (watercolour) or your small finger to apply a small amount of glue paste to the back of each leaf or flower. Find the flat surface of each plant!

5

Place and paste your plants on the window. This is where you can get creative! Make patterns or write a message to people on the outside! Maybe you could write "HI NRG 4 LYFE" or maybe you could make a picture - perhaps a koala on a jetski or an ice-cream with an old man's face!

Before you paste your plants onto the window, you might like to try out some designs and compositions.

6

Watch Chaco Kato from Slow Art Collective creating her window garden.



7

Once you've pasted your creation onto the window, take an opportunity to have a close look at the veins of the leaves and flowers. **Notice how light can make you see something you that was once invisible.**