

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO COLLECT

1. LEAVES AND SHADE Windfall leaves of any kind local to you
2. HERBS AND PERFUME Herbs homegrown or shop-bought
3. FRUITS AND FORM In season fruit from your location
4. FLOWERS AND COLOR Flowers from a garden, a shop or found growing wild.

MATERIALS THAT I PROPOSE TO USE

(Wherever possible I encourage recycling materials – discarded packaging, old fabric, off-cuts of wood)

Pencils (I prefer soft pencils so 4B, 6B and 8B) but any pencil will do

Charcoal and/or graphite powder, or chalk

Erasers

A basic set of paints: red, yellow, blue, white, brown (I like gouache for the natural colour)

A set of watercolour

Brushes

A set of colored crayons or pens

An ink pad

Card or discarded blocks of wood

Foam sheets for printmaking

White glue

Tracing paper

Good quality drawing paper (180grams +) that will also take paint

Recycled paper (paper bags, packaging, biscuit boxes etc..)

Scissors

A cutter + cutting mat NOT FOR CHILDREN

Bits of old fabric

Embroidery threads and needles

Embroidery hoop

A camera (I use my telephone)

TO SHARE IMAGES OF YOUR WORK

At any stage of your creative process we would be delighted to see images of your work.

Please share on Instagram using the following hashtag #myownparadisegarden

@drawingisfree_org / @agakhancentregallery / @esenkaya.art / #rhslindleylibrary / #paradisegarden

'To Draw My Own Paradise Garden'

FREE BOTANICAL
DRAWING RESOURCES

Inspired by Islamic Gardens


AGA KHAN CENTRE
GALLERY

 RHS

DRAWING IS FREE

INTRODUCTION

My name is Chloe Briggs, I am an artist, teacher and mum. I was born British and am now also French... I have lived in Paris since 2008. In 2013, I created *Drawing is Free*, an initiative originally designed to bring the community at the university where I teach together around the pleasure of drawing. It's a space for drawing that is 'free' in financial terms, but also free from critique and judgement – teaching tools that when wielded responsibly can be helpful, but that all too often become the reason why people stop, or never start, drawing.

Over the years *Drawing is Free* has evolved, and has worked in collaboration with many institutions, community organizations and individual artists to encourage people from all backgrounds, ages, experience to discover, or rediscover a drawing practice that enriches their lives.

This is an introduction to a series of four 'drawing resource' booklets commissioned by Esen Kaya, curator at the Aga Khan Centre Gallery in London who created the exhibition 'Making Paradise: Exploring the concept of Eden through Art & Islamic Garden Design'. It is an exhibition of works from artists from the East and the West, from history and today, who look to nature as a source of inspiration. It's a collection of works that invites broad audience participation and embraces different cultural interpretations of the garden as a place for contemplation, social connection, for pleasure and peace.

This series of gentle prompts, instructions, or recipes for drawing are designed for participants of any age or level of experience. Please follow the instructions as strictly or loosely as you wish, always yielding to creative inspiration that suggests a new direction as you seek to find your personal way of making images of the nature that surrounds you.

The elements of Islamic garden design I've seized on in these exercises are: the use of traditional herbs, fruit, flowers and trees that are the key elements of the Islamic garden, the use of symmetry, repeat pattern and the grid of four. I have selected four magnificent illustrations from the RHS Lindley Collection that have been loaned to the 'Making Paradise' exhibition as starting points for each creative journey. I also include a short list of references for each booklet to encourage you to learn: about the history and often untold stories of botanical subjects that you draw and from the work of other artists and designers.

I live in a small apartment on the 5th floor of an apartment building. At home our window boxes are my garden. I rent a small piece of land in a community garden nearby. My plot is rather clumsily executed, it's the sketch book where I learn from neighboring gardens. I also spend much time in the beautiful parks that are in our neighborhood. You do not need your own garden to engage with these booklets. We will be using our imaginations.

In an urban space I am attracted to nature as a bee to a flower. My drawing activity – close, quiet, respectful study of the wonder of nature through my eyes, hands and heart is my form of prayer for our fragile earth. When I engage with a garden I am not hiding or retreating from the world but actively participating in it. I hope you find something in these booklets that sparks something for you.



POPPIES
THYME
LAVENDER
COW-PARSLEY
ROSEMARY
ROSE
MINT

Picked from my community garden.