

# BEES & LONDON WILDFLOWERS, a wallpaper workshop\*

17 DECEMBER 2011  
10.00 AM — 1.30 PM

ANIMAL ESTATES LONDON HQ,  
URBAN WILDLIFE CLIENT SERVICES  
at ARUP Phase 2,  
8 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 4BJ

\*FOR CHILDREN BETWEEN 8 AND 12 YEARS

This project proposes to create a collective wallpaper during a three hour workshop. The wallpaper will be inspired by William Morris's work and composed of different species of flora found in London.

Morris was one of the great wallpaper pattern designers. His wallpaper patterns were inspired by his intimate knowledge of natural forms and were usually titled with names of flowers. Morris took the natural forms that he found outside in the woods and meadows, and then used them to decorate the inside of our homes. This idea is developed further during the workshop using flora particular to London and creating a wallpaper for display in the exhibition Animal Estates but also for each participant to take with them to decorate their room, their classroom, etc.

## WHAT DOES A BEE SEE?

The wallpaper will take into account the characteristics of bees' vision, namely their attraction to black and white patterns. The eyes of bees are composed of many small lenses (ommatidia), which bring many points of light together to build a grainy photograph, similar to the weft of newspapers.

The sensitivity of bees to ultraviolet rays deprives them of many colours. The ocelli (eyes on the top of their head) distinguish light and dark, which make their environment black and white during the flight. For example, a field of poppies will be seen as a deep black area. The only time a bee can see colours is when it approaches flowers at a very slow speed. Bearing in mind those characteristics, the participants will create a black and white wallpaper made of many different floral patterns, connected together at the end of the workshop.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE ?

Open to children between 8 and 12 years who have some interest in nature, animals and handicrafts.

The workshop is FREE but booking is essential.

If your child is interested in this project, please contact [emilieferrat@gmail.com](mailto:emilieferrat@gmail.com)  
or [martin.fernandez@arup.com](mailto:martin.fernandez@arup.com)

PROGRAMME:

10.00 — 10.15

Arrive Animal Estates HQ, Department of Wildlife Client Services

10.15 — 10.30

Presentation of William Morris's work and creative approach with flowers by Émilie Ferrat

10.30 — 13.30

«Bees and London wildflowers» wallpaper workshop

WORKSHOP LEADER: Émilie Ferrat is a graphic designer graduate from l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Appliqués et Métiers d'Arts, Paris. She is a bee researcher for Animal Estates and an intern in the graphic design studio Åbäke.

