



Art
Gallery
NSW

ALPHONSE MUCHA CHILDREN'S TRAIL

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POSTER ART

This poster was designed by Alphonse Mucha for the play *Gismonda*, starring the famous French actor Sarah Bernhardt.

Look closely at the way Mucha uses shapes and mosaic patterns to frame Bernhardt.

Design a poster for your favourite story character using shapes and patterns.



Cover: *Peonies* 1897–98 (detail)
This page: *Gismonda* 1894 (detail)

All works by Alphonse Mucha © Mucha Trust 2024

Children's trail © Art Gallery of New South Wales 2024

The Art Gallery of New South Wales acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the Country on which it stands.



This page is from Mucha's book *Le Pater*, illustrating the Lord's Prayer from the Christian Bible.

Notice the plants and flowers that surround the lettering, and the shapes, borders and symmetry used in the design.

Design a page using images from nature and symmetrical shapes surrounding the title of your favourite song.

A large, empty rectangular area with a red border and decorative, rounded corners, intended for a student to create their own illustrated page.

At home, create your own illustrated storybook.

'Le Pater': Third heading page: 'Thy kingdom come' 1899, page from illustrated book

ILLUSTRATED PAGE

SWEET TREAT

Mucha designed packaging for all sorts of products, such as biscuits, soap and chocolate.

Notice the patterned borders, shapes and decorative figures on this box. What does the design tell you about the biscuits it once contained?

Design packaging for your favourite sweet treat



At home, notice the design elements that are popular on food packaging today.

Draw a special item of jewellery for someone you love.



Decorative documents: study for plate 49 c1901

HOPE IN THE DARKNESS

Mucha's painting of a woman in the snow was inspired by the terrible suffering the Russian and Ukrainian people experienced during the early 20th century.

Describe the woman's expression. Notice the bright star in the sky above, bringing a glimmer of hope.

Draw a series of faces expressing different emotions.



At home, sketch and take photos of someone in a dramatic pose and use them to make a painting.

Woman in the wilderness 1923 (detail)

Mucha created this design for a large stained-glass window in St Vitus Cathedral, Prague. The window was made up of many sections and each part had to be carefully planned so the design could be scaled up (enlarged).



Develop a series of figure drawings to fill the panels in this grid.

GRIDS AND SCALE

At home, find out how to enlarge your drawing using the grid method.

Cartoons for St Vitus Cathedral stained-glass window 1931

PETALS AND FLOWERS

Mucha designed this poster for a ballet-pantomime called *Princess Hyacinth*. The shapes of hyacinth flowers and petals are used throughout the poster.

What is your favourite plant or flower? Use its form to design a headpiece.



At home, draw close studies of petals and flowers and turn them into decorative designs.