

G.A.T.E.WAYS and

McClelland
SCULPTURE PARK+GALLERY

invite gifted & talented Year 1 and 2 children

with a love of the natural world and art to

'INSECTOLOGISTS ON PROBATION'



G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. This *On Location* program for both girls and boys, will run for two full days.

When we think of deadly animals, we tend to think of sharks or snakes. But the deadliest animal in the world, in terms of how many people it kills every year, is by far the mosquito. Did you know that? Or that scientists believe that there are over 300,000 thousand insects in Australia, but only about half of them have been identified? There are certainly more questions than there are answers when it comes to the most numerous creatures on earth!

Join us as we uncover and discover all about insects as we explore the McClelland Park. Look for critters in the pond, discover the stories artists tell through their sculptures and wonder at nature's incredible beauty !!

Day 1: Under the Magnifying Glass

Let's put on our gumboots, pick up our nets and set off on a scientific field trip! We will start down at the lake ponding for some very little critters called macro invertebrates. Can you identify the insects we have found, and like all good scientists, record your findings in a field diary? What do your findings tell us about the health of the waterway?

As budding insectologists, we will further fine tune our observation skills, paying close attention to the structure and anatomy of a range of larger insects. We'll complete some detailed sketches of different insect parts, identifying similarities and differences and how these may serve to help the insect. We will use our sketches to create a montage of images to add to our field diary and then create a large group sculpture in the grounds using natural materials. We will also create small individual insect sculptures. During our time spent exploring the grounds we will be collecting things that we find; these may be insect wings, beautiful seedpods, or intricate leaves. These are things that, when we take the time to look closely at their details, are truly amazing!

Day 2: The Wonders of Nature

We will start the day exploring some of the sculptures in the park, sharing our responses and contemplating the meaning behind them. We will create our miniature 'Wunderkammer' or 'a cabinet of curiosities'. Historically these were also known as wonder rooms, or small collections of extraordinary objects which aimed to tell stories about the wonders of the natural world.

Based on previous understandings and observations we will design a new species of insect. Children will consider each anatomical feature of their insect, and how its design supports the insect's function and purpose. We will create a scientific entry for the insect, naming its place in the animal kingdom and describing its habitat and habits, its predators and prey and defence mechanisms.

We will complete our field journals and finalise our miniature Wunderkammer displays ready for our exhibition. We will finish the day at 3pm with a viewing of the finished work and a review of our activities.

Requirements:

Please ensure that students bring a hat, refillable drink bottle and a nut-free snack and lunch on each day. They will also need to bring sunscreen, wet weather gear (gumboots, raincoat or poncho – no umbrellas please) and a change of clothes in case of mess.

About the Presenter:

Marie Allaman is the Education and Programs Manager at McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, where she develops education and public programs that foster creativity and encourage critical and creative thinking. With a passion for art as a means for personal growth, wellbeing and social change, Marie has worked for nine years as programs manager for museums and galleries in Australia and overseas where she gained extensive experience in education, learning strategies and community engagement.

