

For immediate release  
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## **Primary pupils create Matisse-inspired Bottle Garden at the Horniman**

Every child at Horniman Primary School has helped to create a pop-up garden which opens today (Saturday 18 May) at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, south London. Their **Matisse-inspired Bottle Garden** – reusing plastic drink bottles as containers for bee-friendly plants – is part of the Chelsea Fringe, the alternative garden festival.

The display features 120 bottles decorated by the children with designs inspired by French artist Matisse's botanical cut-outs. Each bottle contains plants grown from seed by the children with the help of the Horniman's gardeners, including poppies, marigolds, cornflowers and nasturtiums. The bottles are suspended in groups from the Horniman's library building, to form a colourful display, visible from the South Circular road.

Local floral designer Yolanda Chiaramello has led the project, working with the children and the team at the Horniman to create their second joint Chelsea Fringe display, following on from last year's field of paper poppies.

Yolanda Chiaramello says: 'It's been a total inspiration working alongside the gardening team at the Horniman. Chelsea Fringe is always my favourite event of the year. The pupils at The Horniman Primary school have loved this collaboration, planting their seeds, watching them grow and designing their bottles. We are really looking forward to sharing the installation with everyone.'

The Horniman Museum and Gardens will also host two workshops on Saturday 18 May when visitors can upcycle their own used plastic drinks bottle into a colourful planter to take home. Workshops (at 11am and 1pm) are free but space is limited.

The Matisse-inspired Bottle Garden is free to visit. The Horniman Gardens are currently open from 7.15am (8am on Sundays) to 8.50pm.

**Ends**

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## Pictured:

- Planting in progress. Credit: Yolanda Chiaramello
- Horniman Primary School pupil with Matisse-inspired bottle planter at the Horniman Museum and Gardens. Credit: Yolanda Chiaramello.

## Additional images available.

## Notes to Editors:

- The [Chelsea Fringe Festival](#) is the alternative garden festival, running from 18 to 26 May 2019.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk)
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – [horniman.ac.uk/members](http://horniman.ac.uk/members).
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. [horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access](http://horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access).
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx.15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).