



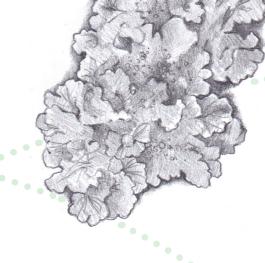
to INVIES

FUTURE KNOWLEDGE

OXFORD

MODERN ART

• About Future Knowledge Future Knowledge is a show that shares ideas from artists and designers which can help us see how our world is connected. These artists in this show have explored some of the oldest living things in the world, the oceans and seas and the air that we breathe, noticing changes over time. Change can be cyclical - like going around in a circle - or seem linear, as if happening one step at a time. Change is happening all around us, and is caused by many things. Did you know? Microbes first appeared on earth about 3.5 billion years ago. They are very important in sustaining life on our planet.



Looking for Change

Many natural changes are cyclical - such as the changes we notice in trees and woodlands. A woodland responds to environmental change such as changes in light, temperature and water variations throughout the year.

At this time of year, leaves fall from the trees as the seasons change from autumn to winter. Leaves lie on the ground, and scrunch under our feet... But then where do they go?

On the forest floor, bacteria, fungi and tiny little creatures are busy at work. These bacteria and fungi are called microbes and they break down the leaves into useful nutrients that help our plants to grow. Microbes are so tiny you need a microscope to see them, but life on earth wouldn't exist without them.

('Micro' means small!)

We can't always see the changes that are happening around us straight away but by looking at the world closely, we can discover small changes that are making big differences.

Can you think of a change that goes around in a cycle that you could draw?

Lichens

Lichen grows on natural surfaces like trees, rock and soil and on surfaces like concrete and tarmac. Lichens are a bio-indicator of air quality which means they are very sensitive to air pollution and can be used to notice the effects of pollution in towns and cities.

Lichens have the most amazing colours and textures.

Go for a walk and see if you can spot lichen growing around you, then bring a sketch or photo of what you've found to the gallery to share.



Big Draw Workshop

Lichen Life

Saturday 13 October, 1-4pm

Join our visiting artist for a special workshop where you can paint your own lichen life portraits, create your own living lichen sculpture, and learn more about the secret microscopic world of lichens.

Free entry, just drop in.