

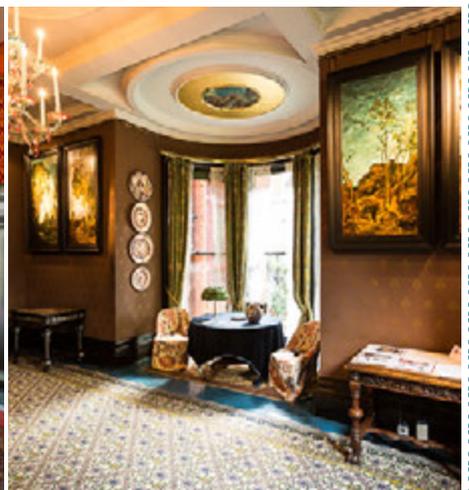
# Create & MAKE

Located on the edge of Holland Park in Kensington, Leighton House Museum is the former home and studio of the celebrated Victorian artist, Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896). The house combines studio, living and entertaining space, and a lovely garden. Leighton House is now regarded as one of the most remarkable buildings of the nineteenth century, not least because of the extraordinary domed and tiled Arab Hall on the ground floor. Today it contains an exceptional collection of paintings and sculpture by Leighton and his contemporaries, hosts temporary exhibitions, special public events and an extensive learning programme, and is also regularly used for photography and film shoots.

**With this Create and Make you will learn the story of Daedalus and Icarus, discover beautiful sketches in Leighton House, do some research and be inspired to create your own sketches, studies and writing.**

**You will need art & craft materials such as paper and pencils, colouring pencils, chalks and paints, and some fabric like a scarf or a blanket.**

**Also, access to the internet for research and a printer, if you'd like to keep this booklet.**



Look at these two sketches by Frederic, Lord Leighton



Look closely and tick when you find in both sketches:

- the man standing tall and straight facing you
- the man bending forward, turning his head to look at the other man
- the billowing cloud of material to the right
- the white shape to the left
- the small sculpture standing on a plinth
- the sea beyond

Look closely at the white shape. Does it remind you of anything?

I think it could be

.....

CLUE:



## The Story of Daedalus and Icarus

Daedalus, the great inventor and craftsman, was asked by King Minos of Crete to design a Labyrinth to imprison the Minotaur beast. The Minotaur was a fierce and horrifying half-man, half-bull monster.

### Quickly sketch your Minotaur beast



Grab a piece of paper and a pencil!

Once the Labyrinth was built and the Minotaur imprisoned, King Minos held Daedalus and his son Icarus captive in a tower, so that the old man could not reveal the secret of the Labyrinth.



### How could they escape?

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Watching the birds flying over the sea Daedalus had the idea of wings! He made them from feathers and held them together with beeswax. As Daedalus strapped the wings to his son's shoulders, he warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun or too close to the sea. This is the moment you can see in Leighton's picture. Icarus must fly a steady path between the heavens and the sea. Imagine a lit candle? What happens to the wax? If Icarus flew too close to the sun, the wax would melt; too close to the sea, and the wings would become sodden and heavy. Not too high, not too low.

As Icarus took to the skies, the experience of flying like a bird was fantastic, incredible. He ignored his father's warning, and flew higher and higher, closer and closer to the sun. The heat of the sun melted the wax, his wings disintegrated into pieces and he fell into the sea and drowned.

If you want to find out more about the Ancient Greeks and Romans, see what Horrible Histories have to say

[www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/horrible-histories)



Curator Daniel says ...

*“This story is another ancient Greek myth narrated by the Roman poet Ovid in his book ‘Metamorphoses’ which inspired Frederic, Lord Leighton. When Leighton had an idea for a painting, he would first make lots of sketches using pencil or black and white chalks. Then he would quickly make a little sketch using oil paints to help him choose and balance the colours across the composition. Only then would he start work on the big canvas. You can see the oil sketch in the studio at Leighton House. The finished painting is part of The Faringdon Collection at Buscot Park. Follow this link to see what it looks like.”*

[www.buscot-park.com/faringdon-collection/paintings-at-buscot](http://www.buscot-park.com/faringdon-collection/paintings-at-buscot)



Frederic, Lord Leighton says ...

*“It’s your turn to create!*

*When I painted little oil sketches like this one, I was really thinking about colour not lines, and the shapes of things. I would paint quickly, freely, loosely. Curator Daniel would say these sketches are ‘painterly’, which is a lovely word! Can you choose your favourite moment from the story and paint a colour sketch? Be spontaneous, just think about the individual colours you like and how they look sitting next to each other. You could use paints if you have them, or colouring pencils, crayons or pastels.*

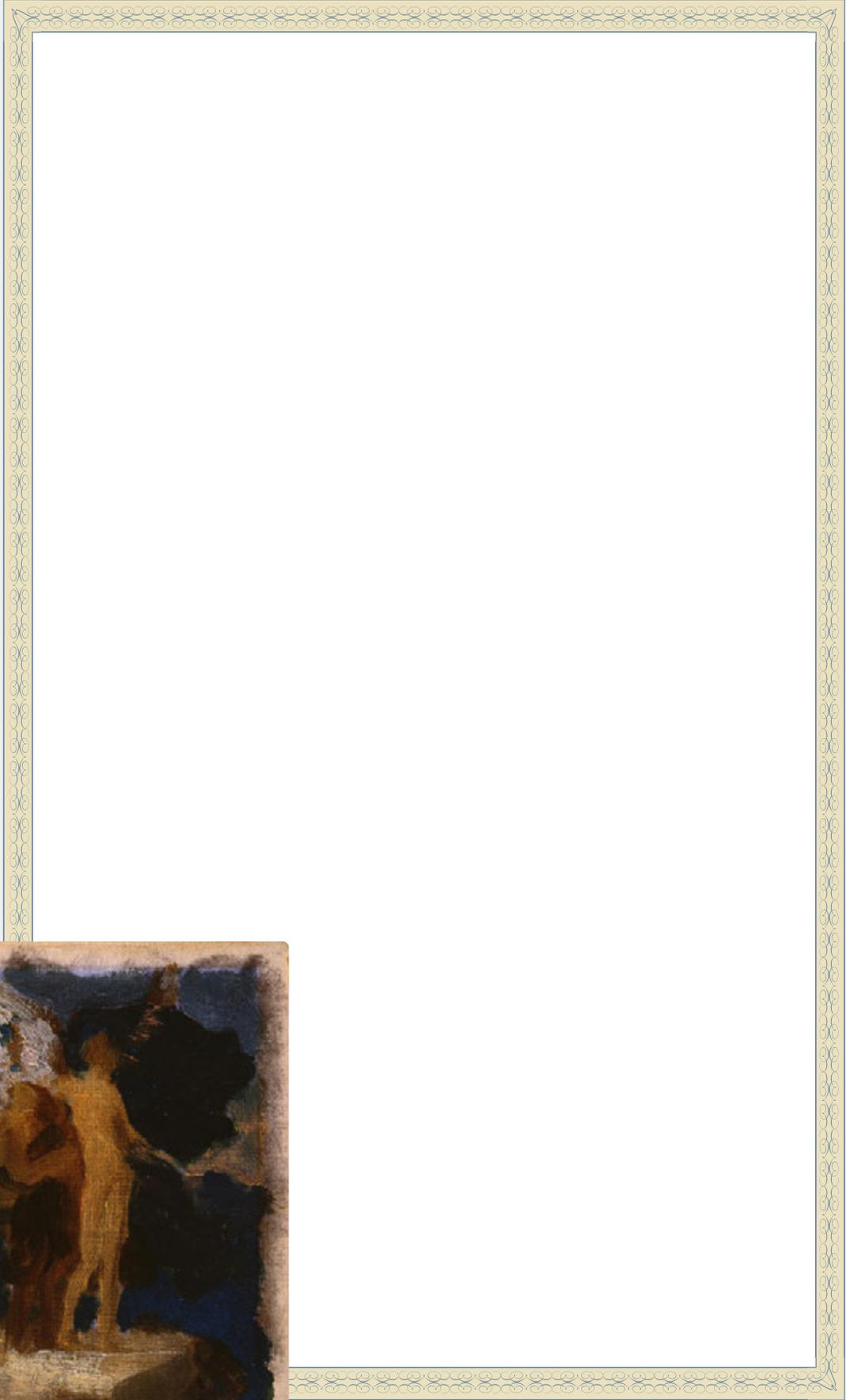
*I really enjoyed drawing and painting cloth and fabrics, like the material billowing out behind Icarus. Here is my sketch, you can see I’ve used black and white chalk on blue paper.*

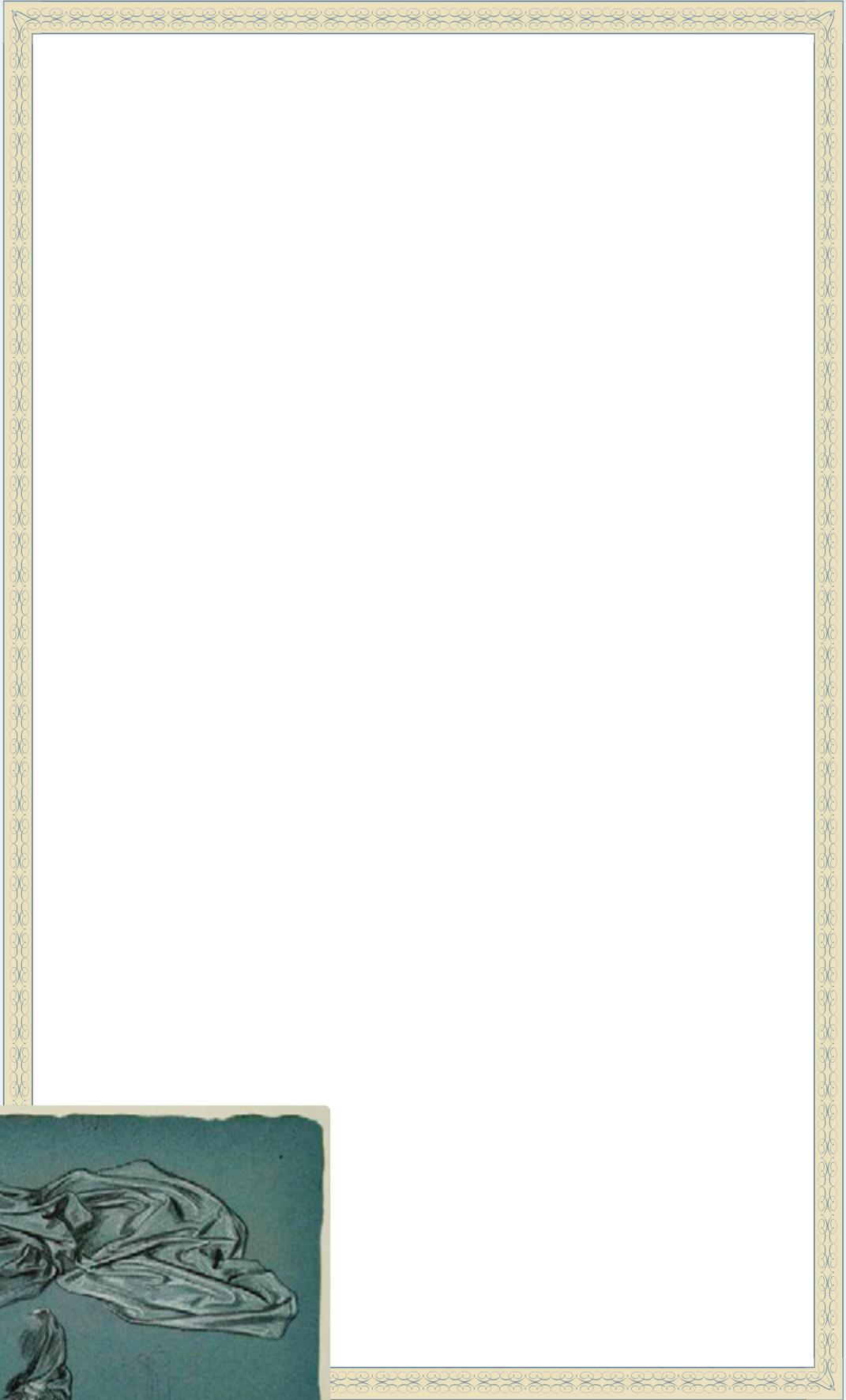


*Can you arrange a scarf or a blanket and try and draw it? You could use pencil on white paper, or try chalks on blue paper like me.*

*The story of Daedalus and Icarus celebrates ingenuity and invention. It is also a warning against ignoring good advice, and being too proud and overconfident.*

*Can you think of somebody whose advice you trust? It might be somebody in your family, a friend or a teacher. Can you write about them? Think about when they have given you good advice, and why you can rely on them.”*







The person I trust and rely on for good advice is ...

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



Leighton House Museum



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA