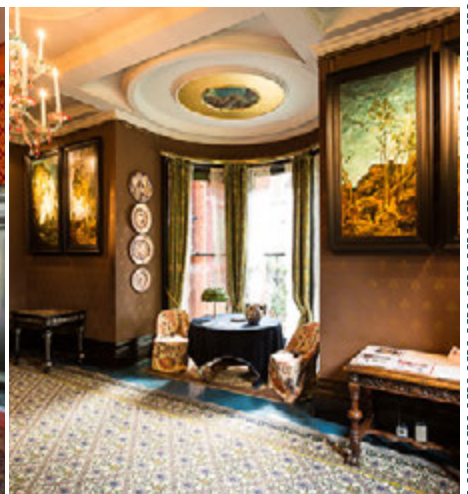


Create & MAKE

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 Orpheus & Eurydice, discover Leighton's painting, do some research and be inspired to create your own story, picture or collage.

You will need art & craft materials such as paper and pencils, colouring pencils and paints, and materials for collaging. Also, access to the internet for research and a printer, if you'd like to keep this booklet.





Look at this painting by Frederic, Lord Leighton and circle the colours you can see:

Orange • Black • Cream • Brown • White • Pink

Purple • Green • Yellow • Gold



Circle the relationship between the man and the woman:

Friends • Husband & Wife • Strangers • Brother & Sister • Enemies



Circle what you think might be on the man's back:

Chair • Bag • Violin • Harp • Bike • Guitar • Easel



From what you have circled, what do you think is going on in this painting?

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Curator Daniel says ...

"Leighton was fascinated by the Ancient Greek and Roman past, particularly the myths and stories which gave him plenty of ideas for his work. This painting is telling the story of Orpheus and Eurydice, and he painted it in 1864. Actually, he also told this story in a painting he finished in 1856, so there must have been something about it that captured his imagination."



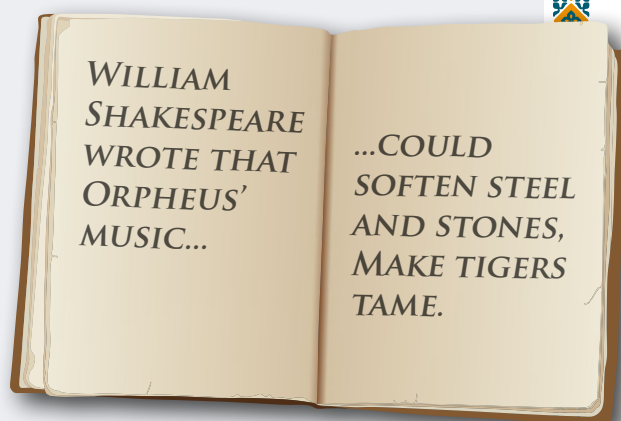
The man is Orpheus, the son of a Muse named Calliope and Apollo, the God of music, healing, the sun, poetry and much more. Orpheus was a famous, celebrated musician, taught by Apollo himself. His playing was so beautiful it had the power to make not only humans and animals, but trees and rocks move closer to him and dance! You can see his lyre on his back - you pluck it and it sounds very similar to a small harp.

The woman is Eurydice. Orpheus and Eurydice fell in love and for a short time they were happily married. Then one day Eurydice was wandering through a meadow when she was bitten by a snake. She collapsed and died instantly, leaving Orpheus heartbroken. Orpheus was desperately sad and wished to be together again with his wife.

He bravely ventured down into the Underworld to ask Hades, the God of the Underworld and Persephone, the Goddess of the Underworld for his beloved wife back.

He played his lyre and sang. His music and grief moved Hades and Persephone to tears and they allowed Orpheus to take Eurydice back with him on one **condition**.

(If your family tell you that you can go on your phone if you finish your homework - that's a **condition**!)





What do you think the condition was? Look at Leighton's painting for clues!

- ☐ Orpheus must leave his lyre in the Underworld
- ☐ Orpheus must not look back at his wife until they both reach the light of the sun
- ☐ Orpheus must return to the Underworld once a year to sing and play for Hades

As they began their walk through the dark, Orpheus was afraid that he would lose Eurydice and was worried that she might not even be there. Finally the sunlight fell on Orpheus' face, and out of his love and happiness, he glanced back. But Hades had set the condition that Orpheus must not look back at Eurydice until they had reached the Upperworld. Leighton has painted a moment when Eurydice is trying to turn Orpheus towards her, not understanding why he won't look at her now that they are finally reunited.



Do you like this story? How does it make you feel?

Sad • Happy • Annoyed • Confused



Curator Daniel says ...

"This is one of the colour sketches Frederic, Lord Leighton made for his earlier painting telling this same story. Sadly, the finished painting is lost. We do know that when Leighton showed the finished painting, lots of people didn't like it. What do you think of this sketch - if we find the finished painting, do you think you'll like it? How many differences can you spot between the two pictures?"



Colour Sketch for The Triumph of Music
Oil on canvas, 1855-6



Orpheus & Eurydice
Oil on canvas, 1864



How many differences did you spot?



Frederic, Lord Leighton says ...

"It's your turn to create!"

Try writing your own version of the story with a different condition set by Hades, and maybe a different ending.

You could choose your favourite moment from the story, and draw and paint that. I would make hundreds of studies and sketches before starting a large painting like this, so don't be afraid to practise first. You could use pencil, colouring pencils, crayons or paints.

This story has inspired many artists, writers, composers and filmmakers for hundreds of years – can you find some more? Do some internet research.

Here's a painting by my friend George Frederic Watts. If you come to my house you will see the portrait he painted of me, hanging on the stairs. He decided to paint the moment when Orpheus turned to look at Eurydice. It is very dramatic and the colours he chose are very different to mine..

www.aagm.co.uk/theCollections/objects/object/Orpheus-and-Eurydice

I was really interested in light and shade, and colour and shape. Why don't you try making a collage of my painting of Orpheus and Eurydice? Don't worry about drawing realistic people, just look for the shapes in the picture, and the light and dark, like this:



You could use tissue paper, different colour paper, cut up magazines, cotton wool, tin foil – and lots of glue!



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



