

# At Summerhall – Grow Wild!

Young artists each with a budget of £500 have created artworks which will highlight the importance of wild flowers and plants in the Youth Takeover exhibition which begins tomorrow at Summerhall.

There will be poetry, embroidery, sculpture and steel band music all paying tribute to wildflowers.



Grow Wild is an outreach of Kew Gardens. The wildflower campaign has funding from the National Lottery to engage young artists in drawing attention to wild flowers and dwindling meadow habitats across the UK. As well as the flowers and plants they will also be helping to tell the story of the bees and butterflies which rely on these plants for food.

Claire Bennett, the Scotland engagement manager for Grow Wild said; “We were very impressed with the quality of the ideas we received and we’re delighted to enable the successful applicants to make their artistic vision a reality.

“For some this will be their first formal experience of sharing their creative work. It’s also a great opportunity for these budding artists to be able to display the resulting work at such a prestigious venue in the city.

“We are also really proud to be showcasing community projects which have supported young people in the creative arts from across Scotland. To date we’ve held residencies in everywhere from our flagship site, [the Water Works](#), through to the Isle of Benbecula, where young crofters explored botanical illustration. “

22-year-old artist Andrew Sutherland is studying textile design at Glasgow School of Art. As a volunteer for youth

music project, Beatroute Arts in Balornock, he has been working with a group of young people to help them create fungi-inspired wearables for the exhibition at Summerhill. He said : “I collect wildflowers all the time and fill my house with them, I am inspired by colour in nature and fungi and translate this into my textile work.”

Freya Cohen, one of the featured artists, highlights the plight of pollinators in her art. She said : “I wanted to do something fun with this project, but something that would also give me a chance to talk to people about the problems pollinators face and why it’s so important to protect them.

“That’s why I chose solitary bees. A lot of people don’t know about them, so I wanted to find a way to show their diversity and beauty.”

Visitors to the exhibition can also add their own creative contribution.

Just tell the crochet artist your favourite wildflower and she will add them to the chain to create a final piece for display at Summerhall.