

Spring Traditions

What happens in spring?

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On March 20 springtime is on the verge to start again. It's a wonderful season that's beginning. The whole world comes to life, the cold becomes less and less. The animals wake up from their winter's sleep and also the humans start into a new cycle of living. But how is it exactly that humans and animals begin the new season?

In the whole world we have traditional celebrations welcoming spring. In Chiang Mai, the capital of Thailand, people are out on the streets and have fun becoming wet from little jet guns. In Japan this time is celebrated with friends and family in parks beneath the blossomed cherry trees and in Northern India people throw colored powder at each other in order to say goodbye to winter.

How do you start into spring? Do you know of any rituals or even spring traditions?

For more than 1000 years cherry blossom parties are celebrated in the whole of Japan. Also, in Germany and Europe many people celebrate this tradition and the beauty of these trees that have become native to parks and greens here by now. The cherry blossom is a symbol in Japanese culture – meaning complete beauty, rising and beginning of the warmer season.

The Holi Festival in Northern India is a Hindu tradition and undoubtedly one of the most colourful traditions in the world. On the eve people meet up on the streets and burn so called Holika (little straw and wood dolls), which symbolize the evil so that bad ghosts are chased away. On the next day, the holiday, people throw powder in all colours at one another. On this day, there is no difference between poor and rich. In this way, we pay tribute to the colourful springtime and, at the same time, elements of Hindu mythology.

Tip:

Do you want to celebrate cherry blossom party yourself this year? Then get a picnic blanket, something to drink and snack and come sit in front of GRASSI Museum at Johannisplatz. That's where you can find beautiful cherry blossom trees.



Felting and Migratory Birds

The Journey of the Birds

INSTRUCTION

Winter is cold, days are short and in the animal world there is less food. Some animals such as squirrels just spend that time sleeping or resting while others fly to warmer areas to be able to still find seeds and insects to eat. The nightingale for example, the cuckoo, the crane or the stork. Every year they fly from Central Europe to Southern Europe or even Africa and come back between March and May to breed. In order to reach their destination they orient on the earth's magnetic field, the stars in the sky and the sun. They own a fabulous compass inside. In this manual we'd like to help you make a little felt bird yourself to give it to someone you like or to decorate your room.

You can also watch this video to learn felting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnkVLApVejc>

What you need:



- Towels
- A bowl of hot water
- Curd soap
- Felting wool
- Needles
- Threads
- Scissors

1:



Knot a small piece of felt into a ball and roll it in between your fingers – much like washing your hands. From time to time add water and curd soap. To make the ball bigger, take a small piece of felt and add it to it. To make a bird, you will need a small and a big ball.

2:



The body will have to become oval instead of round after a while. For the wings and tail feathers you can felt some stripes flat to one another. Once done with all the parts, wash everything in cold water and vinegar and cut the wings and tail with your scissors.

3:



Now you can take thread and needle and stitch the wings and tail to the body. Cut a long piece of thread to sew on the head to the body in a way to use the rest of the thread to hang your bird up.

Done!

Lotus Lights

A colourful Enlightenment

INSTRUCTION

The lotus flower is one of the most important symbols in central and south east Asia. This special plant most famous for its “lotus effect”, meaning water drops rolling off its leaves and taking with them any dirt. The ability to keep itself clean made this plant a symbol for purity and beauty. The flower embodies a new beginning, enlightenment and wisdom, too. In the religions Buddhism and Hinduism the lotus flower is closely linked to Buddha. He is often shown sitting in an opened lotus flower. In China, the plant is also known as a symbol for love and harmony in a marriage.

Lotus grows and thrives in lakes and ponds on muddy surfaces and blossoms very colourfully. It's know in many different colours. A blue flower, for instance, symbolizes stability and endurance while a red flower refers to empathy and a pure heart. In this manual you can make a lotus light, an ideal new year's present since it contains many good wishes.

You need:



- Cardboard (12 by 12 cm)*
- Tea light*
- A drinking glass
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Liquid glue
- A flower set* or self-made leaves from coloured paper (4 dark green, 4 light green, 12 coloured ones, each about 6 m long)

1:



Draw a circle on cardboard and cut it out. You may use the glass as a pattern. Twirl up the end of the leaves (much like in the picture). In case you don't have a set of leaves cut come out of coloured paper, take the glue and stick the dark green ones to the cardboard bottom

2:



The pointy ends of the leaves face the outside - like a star. Now glue the light green leaves into the gaps in between the dark ones. Make sure the glue has properly dried before you proceed to the next step.

3:



Now you can glue on the rest of the leaves as you like. In the middle of the plant you can place the tea light, which, once lit up, will make your lotus flower a lotus light. Never leave it and only light it when a grown up is around. If you give to someone as a gift, make sure they know that too.

Done!



“Family time” – in another way!

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Here you have learned two creative ways, which are not only nice to look at but have a meaning too. Maybe one of the worksheets inspires you to make a gift to someone you like for New Year. Making each other gifts for New Year is a Roman tradition by the way, who hoped for luck in the year to come when making gifts to others. You can also just write a card with good wishes too, of course. Especially in times of Corona it's nice to share with your friends and family in another way.

Since many shops are closed at the moment, you can order some of the material (those marked with a star *) from us free of charge.**

Send an email with your postal address to sabine.wohlfahrt@skd.museum

**while stock lasts

We wish you a healthy start into the new year and do hope to be able to welcome you in the museum again soon!

