

REDISCOVERING NATURE THROUGH SKETCHES

Earlier this year, when Luci and Stephen invited a bunch of us to an extraordinary journey of observational enquiry on nature at the 'Art for Conservation' (A4C) workshop organised by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, the awestruck researcher and artist in me discovered that one connecting link between a scientist and an artist - *the power of observation and enquiry*. And I couldn't help but reflect back on the years of marvelling at the polymath Da Vinci's unparalleled observation skills and his incessant wonder for all that is around and within - something that has driven me personally in all my creative pursuits. Naturally, when it came to taking the lessons of the workshop to more nature and art enthusiasts, I knew exactly what to offer.

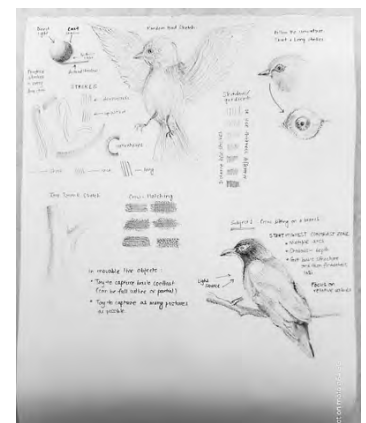
On 18 August, a Sunday morning, a group of Indian Institute of Science students and community members came together for a Nature Art Workshop, themed around observational enquiry, grounding, and connection, organised in collaboration with the Nature Club of IISc. We kickstarted by setting the intention for the day, some eager to explore their creativity, others to immerse





themselves in nature, yet others seeking a live outdoor sketching community and for me, the joy of reconnecting with the green campus of my alma mater. As the facilitator, I was both inspired and deeply moved by the experience. The day was filled with vibrant energy as we explored the play of light and shadow to capture the essence of patterns and textures in nature art.

From the few seasoned sketchers to numerous curious beginners, the workshop witnessed a diverse group of passionate individuals, each with their unique perspectives, discovering the magic of intentional observation as they forged a deeper connection with the campus biodiversity through their live nature art creations.





The highlight of the day, a collaborative exploration of the nature observations from campus, saw them turn a barren stretch of 10–15 m canvas into a *vibrant and thriving biodiverse wonder*. The transformative power of this shared experience was evident in the joyful smiles etched across the faces of participants deeply immersed in the flow state of creation.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, or allowed them to refine their craft through the sketch along sessions and real-time with several attendees expressing how it reignited their passion for nature art or introduced them to new live art techniques or allowed them to refine their craft through the sketch along sessions and real-time

feedback during the outdoor sketching session. Looking ahead, participants expressed a keen interest in future workshops focusing on more in-depth explorations of artistic techniques and group outdoor nature art sessions.

The hands-on nature of these activities fostered a deeper appreciation for the environment, reinforcing the essential link between art, nature, and conservation. Together, we will continue to observe, explore, create, and conserve, one sketch at a time!

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