5: TULIP MANIA

Gallery 2

This painting shows a tulip field in Holland, a place famous for these flowers.

Look at the painting. How would you describe the weather?

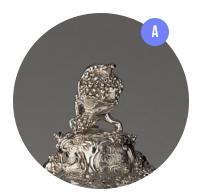
Did you know that the wind is also a pollinator, spreading pollen from pollinizing flowers to other flowers?

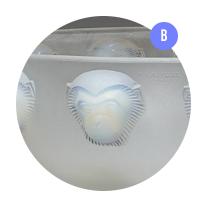
Tulips are about to bloom locally in the Berkshires. Tulip pollen is often very visible. When you see one, look carefully inside the flower and you will be able to see the pollen, (the powdery stuff).



Tulip Fields at Sassenheim, Claude Monet 1886

EXPLORE S'MORE:





Pay a visit to our American Decorative Arts galleries to visit some other surprising pollinators!

It's not just bugs, bats and wind that act as pollinators. Lots of other creatures transfer pollen when they eat flowers or brush up against plants —birds, rodents, deer, and many more. In tropical climates, monkeys and lizards act as pollinators too. The animal benefits because it gets a tasty nectar snack and the plant benefits because its pollen is spread, allowing the species to grow far and wide.

Did you know that when both the animal and the plant benefit it's called a *symbiotic* relationship?

- A) Two Handled Cup with Cover by Paul de Lamarie, 1742/1743 (Burrows Gallery #20)
- B) "Madagascar Bowl" by Rene Lalique, c.1928 (Lauzon Glass Study Gallery)



GETTING STARTED:

Welcome to the Clark. This guide focuses on works of art that have something to do with the process of pollination.

First, some basic definitions:

- Pollen Powdery substance that fertilizes a plant so it can reproduce
- Pollinate: The act of moving pollen among flowers, from the male anther to the female stigma
- Pollinator: The agent that moves pollen from one flower to another
- · Pollinize: To provide pollen, to pollinate
- Pollinizer: A plant that provides fertile pollen

1: SIC VITA

Gallery 15

This sculpture represents a prop-boy for the theater carrying the mask of comedy. Depending on where you are standing, the boy in the sculpture looks like he is laughing or crying. Walk around the sculpture and see if you can tell what is causing him to wince in pain.

Bees are one of the primary pollinators in the natural world.

Did you know that only female bees can sting?

"Sic Vita" means "such is life" in Latin. Why do you think the artist included this phrase in the title of this sculpture?



Comedy and Tragedy: Sic Vita, Gilbert Albert, modeled 1891-92, cast c. 1902-5

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HOW MANY POLLINATORS DO YOU SEE? KEEP TRACK AS YOU EXPLORE THE GALLERIES!

2: WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Gallery 17

This plate was made as a collector's item rather than for use in dining. It was made at a time when there was a lot of interest in learning about bugs. Look carefully at the plate and you will see that each bug is different! What did the artist do to make the bugs look so life-like?

Did you know that all of these bugs can be pollinators? How many different types of bugs do you see?

Compare the bug plate with Teapot and Cover, Meissen Porcelain Factory, 1745 which is right below the plate. What are some of the differences between the butterflies?



Bug Plate, Johann Zacharias Quast, 1840

Chariot of Aurora, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, c.1734

3: NIGHT & DAY

Gallery 17

In this painting, the goddess of dawn is ushering in the day.

Can you spot the pollinator in this painting? It's the bat! He is hurrying to escape the light of day because he is nocturnal, which means he sleeps during the day and is awake at night, when he will pollinate certain varieties of flowers that only bloom at night.

Did you know that some flowers only bloom at night? These plants are usually very sweet smelling and have big bell-shaped flowers so the bats, who are blind, can locate them.

4: FINDING COMMUNITY

Gallery 3

In this painting, the artist Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema illustrates a story in which one group of women is helping another group of women. How does the artist suggest that there are two different groups of women? What kind of help is one group of women offering the other?

How would you define "community"?

Did you know that a hive or community of honey bees is sometimes considered a model for human society because the bees offer an example of different types, working together with a common goal.

Can you find the honeycomb in this picture?



The Women of Amphissa, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, 1887