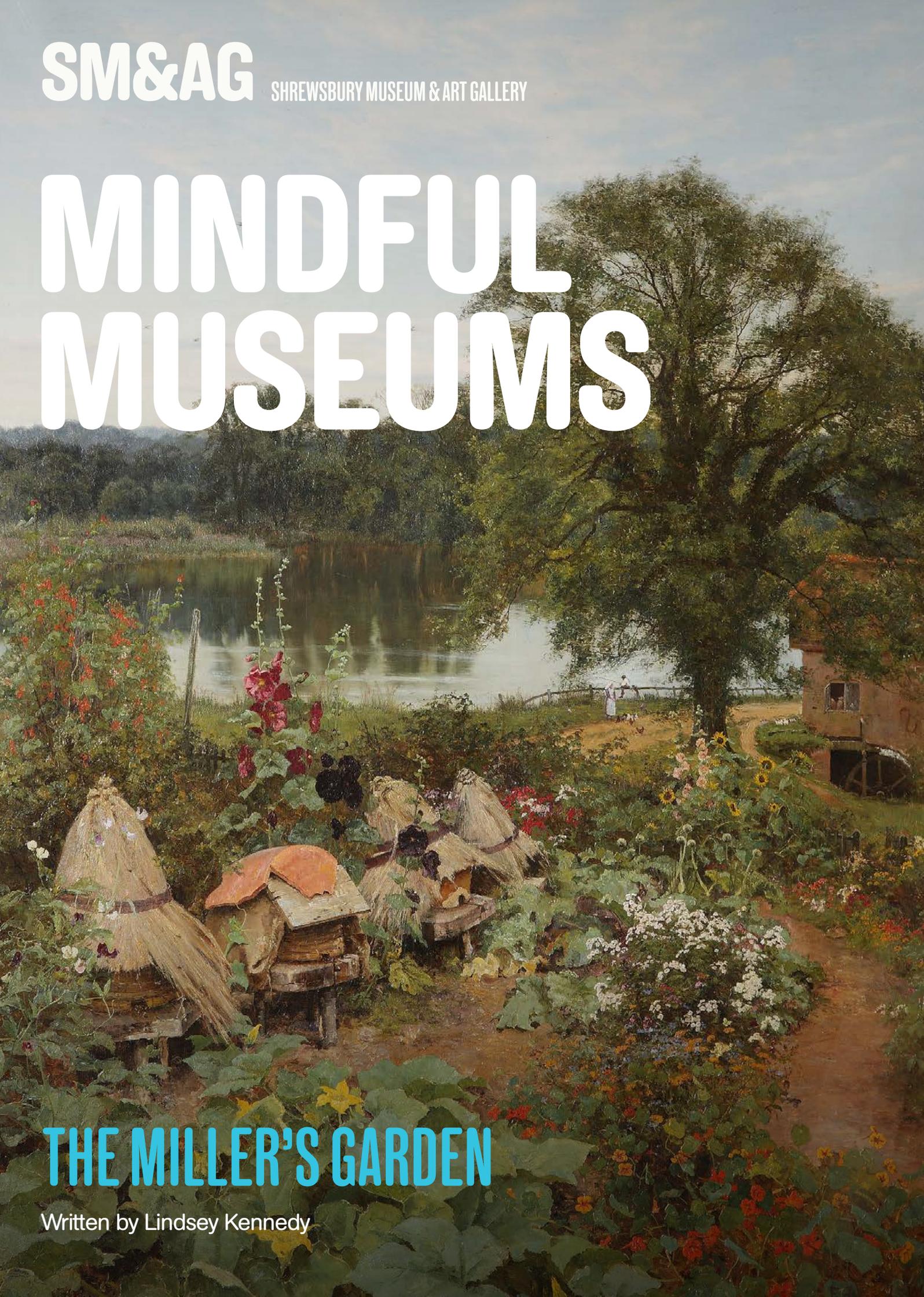


**SM&AG** SHREWSBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

# MINDFUL MUSEUMS

## THE MILLER'S GARDEN

Written by Lindsey Kennedy



# THE MILLER'S GARDEN

**Art Activity** – how do you respond to this object from the collection of Shropshire Museums? Start by watching the Mindful Museum video of [The Millers Garden](#) by Edward Wilkins Waite, painted in 1892.

Think of some words that are prompted by looking at The Miller's Garden painting. Here are some to start with: **gardens, outside, landscape, floral, rural**



## Make a viewfinder

Think of a place outside that you would like to sketch or paint. It can be overwhelming looking at a landscape so you will need to make a viewfinder to help focus on what you are looking at.

Viewfinders are basically a rectangle made from strips of stiff card secured at each corner to create a frame. Look through the viewfinder from different places at the view you are looking at. Decide on a view that you really like.

Before portable oil paint in tubes became available for artists in the nineteenth century most artists would make many sketches of a landscape and then paint the final scene back in their studio. Even with modern art materials, it is not always practical to create artwork outside due to the weather.

If the weather is good then have a go at sketching the landscape you see through the viewfinder. Have several goes and see which one works the best. Try using pencils which can be hard or soft, watercolour pencils, oil pastels or chalks. Try using a variety of coloured or textured paper and experiment.



The Millers Garden by Edward Wilkins Waite, painted in 1892

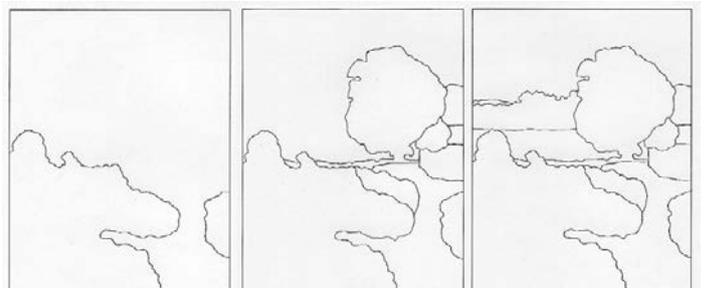
## Get some perspective

Think about how you can create depth in the landscape by using perspective, things in the distance being smaller than those nearer to you. Look at The Miller's Garden again to see how the artist uses perspective in his painting. There are layers laid one onto the other to also create depth. The foreground has lots of detail, then the large tree with the mill behind it, the pond and then the trees beyond that.

Start by drawing the features closest to you and build the sketch as you look at each layer.

Take a series of photographs to use as reference alongside your sketches.

You could try sketching the same view over several days, weeks or months to record the changes in colours and structures within an outside space.



## We'd love to see your work.

Post your response to our social media channels  
#museumsathome  
#smagathome