

Pets' Mews



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CLICK HERE TO READ PM IN GERMAN AND RUSSIAN





Easter crafts with Cookie & Bamboo

by: [@cookiemreport](#)

It almost time for Easter, so you better be prepared for the egg hunt and decorating days.

Bamboo always looove to paint, so this is an easy peasy project to do together.

What you need:

- White, hardboiled eggs – cooled!
- Paint (nontoxic please) or other drawing utensils
- Brushes
- Water – to clean the brushes, no make a mistake by drinking it
- A pencil
- Your imagination!

So... pick up that brush and paint those eggs. Bamboo and me do love flowers, so we made some tulips and hyacinths. It easy. Just use green for the stem and a leaf or two and then pick a colour you like and paint the flower. For a hyacinth you can lightly tap the paint onto the egg, making small flowers. For a tulip you can paint a half circle (bottom on the stem) with three little spikes on top.

But you do not need to paint flowers. Dots, leafs, bows, stripy things and even Pokéballs are really allowed. Just let that imagination go wild! Maybe this year we will paint one blue and put some googly eyes on it. Or make a Dinosaur egg! How cool is that.

If you not sure what to paint, take it easy and paint polka dots in many colours. Like our Yoshi egg with green of just go for those nice spring colours, like purple, yellow, pink and light blue. Just have fun with it.



Also fun! Is to make your own egg holder thingy. You need:

- Fun coloured sturdy paper
- Glue
- Crayons, velvettips, pencils, paint, glitter, washi tape... whatever you like
- Scissors (no running with it!!!)
- Your imagination (again)

Cut a strip from the paper that can hold an egg. Depending on the egg 2,5 centimetres should do the trick. Fold it around an egg to make sure it is big enough and glue the ends together. Cut off the excessive paper.

Then draw a fun figurine, colour it, cut it out and glue it onto the strip. Make sure everybody has one or make one during the Easter brunch or breakfast. It a fun thing to do with the family. It also cool to make little Easter egg hats this way.

Also we found [the cutest colouring pages you can also use as a template](#) for your eggs:

Have fun!

Big hugs,
Cookie & Bamboo





What is your favourite song?

(Charlie Puth)

by Miu @ausruheulen

In an interview, I heard the singer Charlie Puth ask the interviewer about her favourite song and it immediately reminded me of our PHN column "Say it with a Song". He justified the question with the words: "... because you can learn a lot about somebody just from their favourite song". Although the interview took place in a satirical setting, this statement left a lasting impression on me. Of course, more information is needed to truly understand a person. Nevertheless, music, which not only enters our brain as pure sound but is also processed emotionally in the limbic system and linked to memories, can in some way provide information about what moves a person or a plushie at the core of their being.

There are many aspects of a song that can make it a favourite song: The lyrics that can often describe our feelings better than we can ourselves; the melodies that illustrate our mood; the relaxed calm or dramatic tension of the arrangement; the drums that make our soul quiver; the strings that tear our heart apart; the sound of a saxophone that reminds us of times long past; or the singer's voice that moves us to tears, cheers for us or comforts us. Music, as an expression of the soul, has the unique ability to touch other souls.

We owls once asked ourselves whether Charlie Puth is right that favourite songs provide insights into the nature of those who feel touched by them. So, we thought about which songs are our favourites and reflected on the reasons behind them and whether they have a deeper connection to our inner selves.

"What Was I Made For"

The song was composed especially for the movie "Barbie"; and both the movie, and the song reflect the process of realisation that the main character is going through. It is about the central question: Do I want to continue to embody an idea that others have of me, or do I want to realise my own potential? This potential allows a person to not just be an idea, but to create ideas. What makes this song one of our favourites is the fragile and intimate nature of the vocals; the straightforward interpretation; the melody line, which for us is one of the most beautiful ever, as well as the simplicity and at the same time the depth of the question asked: "What was I made for?" It is an unpretentious way of asking about the meaning of life, and I am convinced that this question brings out something in each of us.

The piece "**Schindler's List**"; by John Williams is one of the most moving orchestral pieces for us, reminding us of the responsibility people bear for their ideas in this world.

"The Truth Untold"; by BTS & Steve Aoki:

This song holds a special place in our hearts and on our list of favourite songs. The way it's sung makes our hippocampus and amygdala dance in close embrace and brings back memories of our life in Asia. Our grandfather was once a lecturer at a university, and we spent many evenings on the terrace with students playing guitar and singing sensitive heartbreak songs. For us, velvety and sonorous voices are like a key to precious memories of our childhood in Asia.



“Jerusalem”; by Alpha Blondy:

This hymn of peace has a special meaning for us owls. Alpha Blondy sings of the reconciliation of the three Abrahamic religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - in the holy city of Jerusalem. As owls in a human family with diverse religious beliefs, this song and its current relevance particularly touches us.

“If the World Was Ending”; (JP Saxe ft. Julia Michaels) touch us with the outstanding songwriting skills of these two artists. The lyrics, such as “If the world was ending, you’d come over, right? You’d come over and you’d stay the night. Would you love me for the hell of it? All our fears would be irrelevant?” express the abysses of everyday life in a simple way and move us deeply. What we particularly love about the song is that the end of the world could metaphorically stand for an extreme situation that serves as a catalyst for personal growth and overcoming fear. At the end of the song, one wonders why this transformative power cannot be used in everyday moments instead of waiting for a turning point. The song is melancholic but leaves you feeling motivated.

Songs like “The Rainbow Connection”; (Kermit the Frog), & “My Funny Valentine” (Chet Baker) and “Stay Gold”; (Stevie Wonder) can move us to tears, reflecting our dreamy and playful side and the importance of the survival of the inner child in adulthood.

There are a few other songs that have special meaning for us. But I think the initial question can be answered positively: Songs that touch you deeply do indeed tell stories about ourselves.

So, what are your favourite songs?

P.S.:

You can listen to the favourite songs of Miu and the Owl Parliament on Spotify. Just follow this [link](#).



Easter Traditions with Nature in Mind

by_gasbrick



Easter falls on March 31 this year, it marks a time of rebirth and renewal. The images of eggs, colourful flowers, lambs, nests, and baby bunnies are like a breath of fresh air for those of us in the North who have suffered through a long, dark winter.

Although “Easter” is a Christian holiday, it is pre-dated by Eostar, the pagan holiday named after the Germanic Goddess – Ostara- of fertility and spring. It marks the time when day and night are of equal length—spring equinox (March 20th).

As a nod to the rebirth of Earth, we invite you to consider some greener Easter traditions this year.

1. Sow Seeds in Eggshells.

Many seeds are fast growing, and are easy and inexpensive to grow—and what better way to celebrate spring than sowing some seeds? Because you are a friend of wildlife, sow some special seeds for pollinators in eggshell planters—and start a new family tradition! The containers are biodegradable, supply the growing plant with nutrients, can be placed directly in the soil at transplant time, and are free to those of us that already eat eggs (or if you have laying hens, even better!).

Starting seeds in eggshell planters at Easter time is such a sweet and traditional symbol of the season, and growing flowers in them over many weeks is so much more satisfying and eco-friendly than a Milka cream egg (although, who doesn't like one of those?!).

The following are great choices for pollinator plants to start indoors: Mexican Sunflower, Zinnias, Calendula, and Nasturtium.

Find out on the packaging, in stores or on the Internet.

Did you know many seeds that are marketed to home gardeners are treated with neonicotinoids (a class of chemicals that are harmful to pollinators)?

So pay attention to get organic seeds!



2. Give “Save the Bees” Seed Packets..

The Easter baskets of today are typically overflowing with plastic “grass”, hollow chocolate bunnies, jellybeans, and plastic toys.

Instead, give the children in your life and your brunch host a beautiful packet of pollinator seeds. With a pretty ribbon around the packet, we guarantee this will make the recipient smile with the promise of colourful flowers.

We recommend these untreated [Save the Bees](#) or Bee friendly seed packets from [The Seed Library](#). If you want to create a greener Easter basket, include plushie’s gardening tools and gloves, some brown crinkle paper, and other more eco-friendly options.

There are many great ideas on Pinterest and beyond.



3. Transplant your Easter flower Outside..

Ah, the Daffodils – We can smell it now! Before we know it our local grocery stores and shops will have large displays of this gorgeous flower. If you buy one, try transplanting it after it has “gone by”.

You’ll be rewarded with more seasons of bloom (maybe even another bloom this summer).

Watch the blooms and let me know if you see any pollinator activity!





Strange New Planet 4: Don't feed the Mech!

by: [@fluffys fun adventures](#)

Fluffy: "I'm here in Catalonia with our famous plushie painter @holasoclamartadrawings! So! How did you get started?"

Marta: "I started drawing stuff when I was a child. Then I got an iPad... so... I opened an Instagram account. There, I met lots of nice plushies aaaand... I started to draw them."

Fluffy: "And then it got a bit out of hand? I remember you posted daily for a year or more!"

Marta: "Well, I started by drawing a plushie and he was really happy. And then another and another... For a while I had like 10-15 drawing requests in the queue!"

(A small furry white creature is jumping towards Fluffy, drooling on him happily)

Fluffy: "And here's somebody who's never missing in your drawings: Sony the dog. Shall we go for a walk with him during the interview?"

Marta: "Sure! He is always by my side... He is the best puppy in the world almost my best friend."

Fluffy: "Can he speak?"

Sony (in a deep, rough smoker's voice): "Of course."

Fluffy: "Hello Sony, what's your most favourite thing in the world?"

Sony: "Food."

Fluffy: "Just like me! What's your favourite?"

Sony: "Chicken! And bacon. I don't like veggies."

Fluffy: "Me neither! Why do humans like veggies?"

Sony: "I don't get it!!! Humans are crazy."

Marta: "Come on, we have great food here! Like Pa amb tomàquet, that's bread with tomato, or calçots, that's like an onion but different, and all-i-oli, a sauce made of garlic and olive oil-"



Fluffy: "That sounds an awful lot like veggies, moving on!"

Marta: "How about crema catalana? It's our best desert!"

Fluffy: "What's that? Creme made out of Catalans? Catalan brains?"

Marta: " No, it's like Crème brûlée, but better!"

Fluffy: "Now we're talking! What else is special about Catalonia?"

Marta: "Oh, we make human towers, called castells."

Fluffy: "Human towers? Why do you build towers from humans? Is it because stones can't walk and build towers by themselves? That's clever!"

Marta: "Exactly!"

Fluffy: "How high do they go? Do you measure them in feet?"

Marta: "I guess it's measured in people... we can do towers of ten people in height. We make them to touch the sky!"

Fluffy: "The sky, really? What do they do up their? Collect clouds to eat them? I always imagined that clouds taste like cotton candy!"

Marta: "I think it's like cotton candy! Yessss!!!!"

Fluffy: "Does anybody live in those towers?"

Marta: "Humans do, and they live in there until they go down!"

Fluffy: "Is there also a princess in this tower? Can I be the princess?"

Marta: "Yessss!"

Fluffy: "Wait! What do you mean, go down?"

Marta: "Humans go up, building the tower themselves. And when the human tower is made, they have to disassemble the human tower."

Fluffy: "And what happens to the humans inside and the princess on top?"

Marta: "They go down, safely! These people are experts climbing over each other. And when they are down, they do lots of traditional dances with all kind of animals. Eagles, donkeys, bears, lions, whatever!"



Fluffy: "With real animals? From the zoo?"

Marta: "No no... they are more like plushies, but made out of cardboard."

Fluffy: "Do these cardboard plushies have their own Instagram too? With meetups and tea parties?"

Marta: "Maybe yes! In every town they have their own cardboard plushies. And they have parties together, dancing all day..."

Fluffy: "Uhm, er, why is there a mech warrior standing over there in the forest?"

Marta: "Oh, the mech warrior appeared in our childhood on TV, in a TV show called Mazinger. He was very famous and came from Japan."

Fluffy: "Yeah, but why is he here?!"

Marta: "Because he was famous and people decided to... build him there to attract children there to visit him. In fact, nobody knows why he is here!"

Fluffy: "It seems lonely out here... Do people come to the forest and feed him?"

Marta: "Sure!"

Fluffy: "What does he eat?"

Marta: "He eats everything around him. He also eats cars and buildings."

Fluffy: "Aren't people afraid of him because of that? My humans always tell me not to do that!"

Marta: "He only eats things, not humans... or brains. Only objects, nothing alive!"

Fluffy: "Oh! So you can bring him trash that can't be recycled?"

Marta: "Indeed! Then his poo is very valuable. He can make new cars and buildings."

Fluffy: "I have a few barrels of radioactive waste in my trunk, do you think he would mind...?"

Marta: "Oh... but then... the poo will be also radioactive?"

Fluffy: "Probably And angry."

Marta: ...

Fluffy: "So... it's not a problem, right?"

Marta: "Nooo.. what could go wrong?"

Fluffy: (rolls barrels to the mech warrior) "That's for you!"

(something goes wrong)

Fluffy: "Ruuuuuun!"



If you want our travelling reporter to come visit you next, contact [@fluffys fun adventures](#) on Instagram!



Maslenitsa

by: @artie.way



Hello! Winter is over, and.... Maslenitsa is coming!

Have you ever heard of the holiday called 'Maslenitsa'? This is a weeklong event, not just a single day! 'Maslenitsa' is a Russian holiday that is both fun and noisy, and is beloved by many people! Moreover, it is the final winter holiday. During the Maslenitsa week, people say goodbye to winter and welcome spring. Maslenitsa would not be complete without joyful songs, dances, interesting games, and pancakes! The sun, pancakes, and stuffed Maslenitsa are what this holiday symbolizes after all! So, from Monday (11, March), I started making pancakes and referred to them as 'flour sun' (and it looks like it!).



The folk festivities that began on Monday include swings, ice slides, buffoons, tents with sweets, and more!

The most important symbol of Maslenitsa is a large straw scarecrow. The clothes worn by the scarecrow are bright and beautiful. There are instances where the stuffed hands are linked to pancakes (cardboard). It is the center of the holiday. Scarecrows are burned on the final day of Maslenitsa to signify the end of winter. This day marks the beginning of spring by allowing people to have more fun and sing cheerful songs.

And I love Maslenitsa very much because I can eat pancakes all the week! After all, pancakes are a symbol of Maslenitsa, the sun - the same hot, blushed, and golden! Help yourself





Springtime in Disney

by: [@bandit.the.niffler](#)



Springtime at Walt Disney World in Florida means it's once again time for Epcot's Flower & Garden Festival.

Each year, thousands of flowers are planted to make the park's beauty come alive, and none are more iconic than the character topiaries. Each floral figure is assembled in one of four ways: Free-form (the plant is sheered into a shape), standard form (the plant is grown to a specific height and then cut to encourage the top to look like a small tree), shrub topiary (the plant is grown around a sculpted metal frame and sheered to the desired shape), or, the most common method for Disney's character topiaries, sphagnum topiary (the plants are grown around a sculpted metal frame and covered with sphagnum moss).

In addition to the moss, some of Disney's topiaries are decorated with other organic materials, such as coco fibre mat and palm fibre. Other details are airbrushed on with paint.

Water-filled tubes are integrated into each metal frame to ensure the plants stay healthy throughout the festival.

The Flower & Garden Festival at Epcot runs from February 28 through May 27, 2024.

Information from [Disneycampus.com](#).



However you're celebrating this time of year, we hope you have fun.

With love, Topsy Cat (Editor-in-Chief) and Pets xxx
#plushiesbuildbridges

