Activity

Digital Decorations

Pair of vases from the Sèvres porcelain factory, 1758

These spectacular vases have some pretty wild decoration! They were made in 1758 by Sèvres, a French royal factory famous for producing porcelain objects. In the 1700s, objects made of porcelain were precious and only very wealthy people could afford to buy them. It's possible that these vases were even owned by Madame de Pompadour, a famous companion of the King of France, Louis XV.

The real showstoppers are the two elephant-shaped candle holder supports on each side of the vase. These magnificent porcelain beasts are brought to life in amazing detail with tusks, long eyelashes, wrinkles on their trunks and even some tiny hairs on their ears, painted with real gold.

Digital Decorations Photo Challenge.

We know Madame de Pompadour liked elephants on her pots but what animals would you decorate your own vase with? Maybe you would prefer a triplet of tigers to a pair of elephants? Instead of a vase, perhaps you could upgrade your teapot with a snake-shaped spout or a lizard on its lid? You might even choose animals from closer to home – what's wrong with a dog on your favourite mug?

Can you see how each elephant would have held a pair of candles in their flower-like candleholders?

Follow the instructions below to have a go at creating your own digital decorations.

Activity

You will need:

- A phone or tablet
- Your favourite piece of crockery

Step 1.

Using your phone or tablet, take a photo of your favourite piece of crockery against a plain background, which will help your designs really stand out. Make sure your photo has saved.

Step 2.

Select your photo and open the doodle or markup function to begin editing. Using the brush or pen tool, draw the outline of a fantastical animal decoration over your crockery. Don't worry if you make a mistake, just use the eraser tool to tidy up your outline.

Step 3.

Once you're happy with your outline, begin colouring it in. Going over the outline slightly can add texture to your creatures, just like the golden hairs in the elephant ears. Try using the zoom function to build up detailed layers of colours and texture to create a natural feathery or furry look.

Go wild and share.

Don't stop at one piece of crockery, explore the whole kitchen! And why not share your digital decorations with us? We'd love to see your creations.

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