

# THE BIG DRAW PRESS RELEASE



**Contact:** Electrician's Shop, Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place, London, UK, E14 OJY  
T. +44 (0) 203 758 4118 | E. [press@thebigdraw.org](mailto:press@thebigdraw.org) | W. [thebigdraw.org](http://thebigdraw.org) | #TheBigDraw

**Patrons:** Sir Quentin Blake, Lord Foster of Thames Bank, Ivan Harbour, David Hockney OM CH, Andrew Marr, Millie Marotta, Sir Roger Penrose OM, Chris Riddell OBE, Narinder Sagoo, Geralde Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE, Bob & Roberta Smith RA

The Big Draw is a registered charity, no. 1114811; company no. 5763509.

---

For immediate use: Tuesday 17th December 2019

## Millie Marotta becomes Patron of The Big Draw

**Millie Marotta has been announced as the newest Patron of arts education charity, The Big Draw, in the lead up to the charity's 20th anniversary in 2020.**

Millie Marotta is a freelance Illustrator based in West Wales. A fascination with the natural world, a love of decorative design and a keen eye for detail are at the core of Millie's work.

In 2014 Millie released *Animal Kingdom - A Colouring Book Adventure*, which went on to become a *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestseller. Since then she has created a further five colouring books, loved by fans the world over. Her most recent book *A Wild Child's Guide to Endangered Animals* (Published by Penguin Random House UK) sees Millie delve into working in full colour alongside writing about a subject very close to her heart. Above all else her intention is to create beautiful and captivating work, which both celebrates and raises awareness of the natural world.

### Commenting on the announcement, Millie Marotta said:

"It's an absolute pleasure to be joining the team at The Big Draw as a Patron. I'm a big fan of their work in inspiring and encouraging people across the world to engage in drawing - a rewarding and important activity that for so many of us gets left behind in childhood.

I look forward to supporting the charity and helping them champion and celebrate drawing, in its many guises."

### Kate Mason, director of The Big Draw, commented:

"It is with delight we welcome Millie into the charity as our newest Patron. There are few artists who reveal such an intense love of living things and nature as do Millie's exquisite and detailed illustrations. More than ever we need artists and champions like Millie who are able to hold a mirror to the increasing plight of the animal kingdom against shifting ecosystems, as well as celebrate the beauty and wonder of the world around us.

Millie's passions and work reflects the fundamental messages behind The Big Draw – that everyone can be creative and that drawing helps us to slow down and take more heed of the world around us –it's fragility as well as all its richness and splendour. She encourages us to all take the time to stop – breathe – and really 'see', rather than just 'look'.

Her infectious passion and enthusiasm is an inspiration. On behalf of the trustees, team, Patrons and Ambassadors, we are delighted that Millie joins us at what are exciting times as we rapidly approach the charities 20th anniversary in 2020. I am extremely excited about the creative opportunities and new horizons her involvement and Patronage will help take forward and realize."

**The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity that aims to promote drawing as a universal language and a tool for learning, expression and invention.** In becoming a patron of The Big Draw, Millie Marotta joins a distinguished roster of supporters, including famous Illustrators Sir Quentin Blake, Gerald Scarfe CBE, Posy Simmonds MBE, and former Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell; Architects Lord Foster of Thames Bank, Narinder Sagoo and Ivan Harbour; Artists David Hockney OM CH and Bob & Roberta Smith RA; journalist and broadcaster Andrew Marr; and physicist and mathematician Sir Roger Penrose OM.

The Big Draw is the founder and driving force behind **The Big Draw Festival** - an annual Festival that takes place across the globe celebrating the universal language of drawing. Whilst the official Festival month is October, events run year-round.

To find out more about the work of The Big Draw visit [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org).

To find out more about the work of Millie Marotta visit [www.milliemarotta.co.uk](http://www.milliemarotta.co.uk).

**ENDS**

## **CONTACT**

Contact The Big Draw for further information, comments, images and interviews.

E. [press@thebigdraw.org](mailto:press@thebigdraw.org) | T. +44 (0) 203 758 4118 | W. [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org)

**#TheBigDraw**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **The Big Draw**

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity that promotes the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing. The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and

exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for each and everyone who wants to draw.

### **The Big Draw Festival**

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over four million people back to the drawing board since 2000. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number has risen to more than 1,000, with over 500,000 people participating each year.

### **The Big Draw Festival Awards**

Every year, The Big Draw Festival Awards celebrate drawing and creativity without borders. 7 Prizes are awarded to organisations, individuals and schools worldwide who demonstrate the vital role of drawing as a tool for communication, innovation and inclusivity as part of The World's Biggest Drawing Festival.