Creating Ephemeral Art
for Teens and Adults

Ephemeral: (adj) lasting a very short time

There are countless ephemeral things in nature: vernal pools, blossoming flowers, the flashing of fireflies, the burst of fall colors, and ice crystals. Part of their beauty is that we know they will not last. Create your own ephemeral artwork out of natural materials, and watch how they change over time.

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:
Outdoor space, natural materials in varying size, colors, textures

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:
A smartphone or camera

1. First, collect natural materials for your artwork. These could include sticks, rocks, leaves, pinecones, flowers—really any natural materials will work! Choose items that speak to you, and consider different shapes, textures, and colors.

2. Arrange your design. You can create an abstract design or choose to arrange your materials to resemble something else. You can try multiple designs, rearranging your materials as you go. Take a photo of your artwork and share it with us through Instagram @cincynature.

3. Leave your artwork to the elements. Observe it over the next few days or weeks to see how it changes. Just how ephemeral your artwork is will depend on where you create it, which materials you use, and the weather. Now it’s time to start again! Try creating different artworks in different places or out of different materials. Think about which you think will last the longest, and why.

TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:
Check out pieces by famed ephemeral artist Andy Goldsworthy. Try this activity with younger members of your family too and see what they create. All ages can make ephemeral art!