



# ARTS AND CRAFTS ECO BIRTHDAY PARTY



This is a birthday party with an eco-twist. Instead of buying and consuming we're going to make the most of the natural materials at hand, local produce and creativity. The script is also good, if you simply want to spend a cozy weekend snug at home entertaining your friends.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

### BEFORE THE PARTY

#### Decorations

Let's make a point of using whatever is at hand and embracing the endless possibilities of decorating with natural materials: here are some nature and frugality inspired decorating ideas for you to select from:

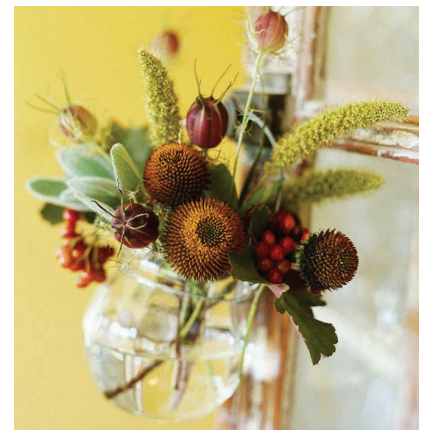


#### Throws and Blankets in a Basket

It's as simple as it sounds: put some cozy woolen throws and blankets into a wicker basket so that your guests could pick one for snuggling in.

#### Jar Trick

Small jars can serve as hanging vases or candleholders. Find some jars that have ridges at the top and wrap wire around the jar several times placing the wire between the ridges. Use the ends to form a loop for hanging. Use the jars as hanging vases and fill them with flowers, twigs, fir shoots, berries or herbs. Another option is to use the jars as candleholders and put a tea light into each one. If necessary, put some hem rope through the loop before hanging the jars.





The same can be done using old light bulbs instead of jars. Beautiful and ingenious.



Or you might want to skip all the work and go as simple as this. Pure beauty.



### **A Message**

You can use an autumn leaf to send a message of love and appreciation to your family members and friends. Cut out a heart (it's easy to do if you fold the leaf in half) and place the leaf next to every guest's plate or bowl, for example, as a napkin decoration.

## FOOD AND DRINKS

Why not focus on enjoying each other's company rather than elaborate cooking and think local produce and comfort food, the simple dishes that are crowd pleasers, such as chilies, stews, casseroles and crumbles. Anything that you know is going to work for your family and friends, dishes that can be served in simple earthenware bowls and eaten on a comfy sofa.





### WELCOMING OF THE GUESTS AND DINNER

Once the guests start arriving, serve them hot welcoming drinks: hot apple cider, rum tea, Irish coffee, hot chocolate or mulled wine (you might like to try a recycled container, like the one in the photo). Follow the drinks with a hearty dinner, but don't serve the dessert yet – we suggest playing some games first.

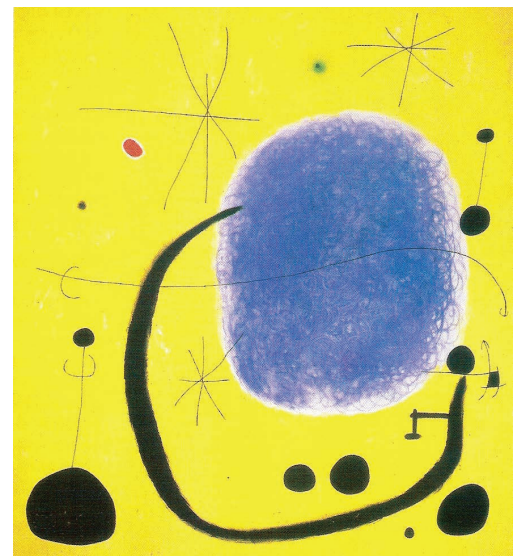


### GAMES

#### I'll Put You in the Picture

To play this game, you will need a reproduction of a well-known painting (as many copies as there are going to be teams plus one, printed on A4 paper, in color), paintbrushes, some gouache/pastels/crayons, etc., the appropriate kind of paper (A3) and scissors.

Note: Choose paintings that don't include many small details or blurred shapes, like, for example, Impressionist paintings. Also, consider your guests' skill level: if you know that they are not skilled at all, opt for some abstract pieces, for example, certain works by Joan Miro. If they have some skills, you can choose something more complicated. In any case, your guests don't have to be professional artists or even very good at painting or drawing to enjoy this game.



"El oro del azul" by Joan Miro

The minimum number of people required for this activity is 4 as you need at least 2 teams. Divide the guests into teams, cut one reproduction into as many pieces as there are teams and give one person from each team a piece of the reproduction. They aren't allowed to show those pieces to their teams. The rest in each of the teams are given a piece of clean paper (cut the A3 piece of paper in the same way that you have cut the printed reproduction, so that the shape of the clean piece of paper corresponds to the shape of the piece of the printed reproduction). The task is to give detailed instructions to the team members how to paint or draw that piece. After they finish painting, the pieces are put together and compared to the original reproduction. Lots of laughs guaranteed.

For not very skilled painters, you could try this painting by Joan Miro.

#### A Chain Story

To play this game, you will need some strips of paper and a pen or a pencil (recycled would be nice) for each person. Make your strips about 2 inches wide, so that one or two words can fit in conveniently. Everyone takes a strip of paper and writes the answer to the question "Who?" These can be the names of someone you know, some famous people, book or film characters and so on. The answer should be short, such as "Cinderella". Then everyone folds the strip so that the answer cannot be seen and gives it to the person on the right. The next question to be answered is "With whom?" Again, everyone writes a short answer, folds the strip of paper and gives it to the person on his/her right. The process is repeated with the questions "What were they doing?", "Where?", "When?", "Who saw them?" and "What did he/she/they say?" After answering the last question, the strip is passed to the right for the last time. Everyone opens the strip that ended up in his/her hands and takes turns to read out loud the sentences that have been produced. Usually, they are nonsense and absolutely hilarious, especially after the guests get the idea and become very free and relaxed about their answers.





## Pantomime Charades

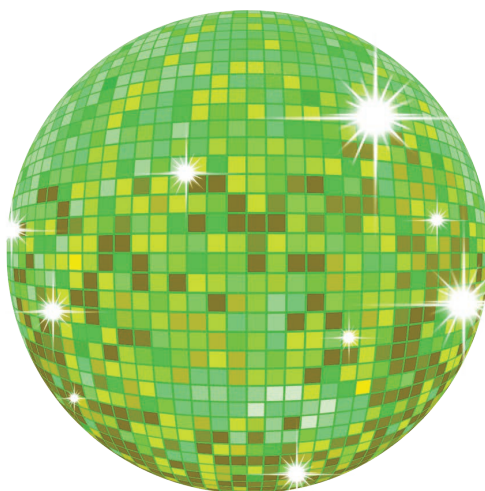
Divide the guests into two teams and ask each team to think of a list of phrases (each phrase on a separate strip of paper): song, book or film titles, famous sayings, proverbs or quotes. Team A gives the first phrase to a person from team B who has to mime it for the rest of team B. When they guess it or give in, team B gives one of their phrases to one person from team A, and the game goes on.

## Freeze

This is another game that will make your guests stretch and move around. Put on your favorite music and get all the guests dancing, the crazier the moves the better. Then pause the music. Everyone freezes. The first person to move is out of the game (do your best to catch your guests in the most awkward positions). Continue the game until one person is left – he or she is the winner.

## DESSERT & CHAMPAGNE

By now everyone will probably be ready for a sweet treat, so it's time for the final touch of the party – dessert and a glass of champagne. Happy birthday!



**We wish you a stunning party!**