

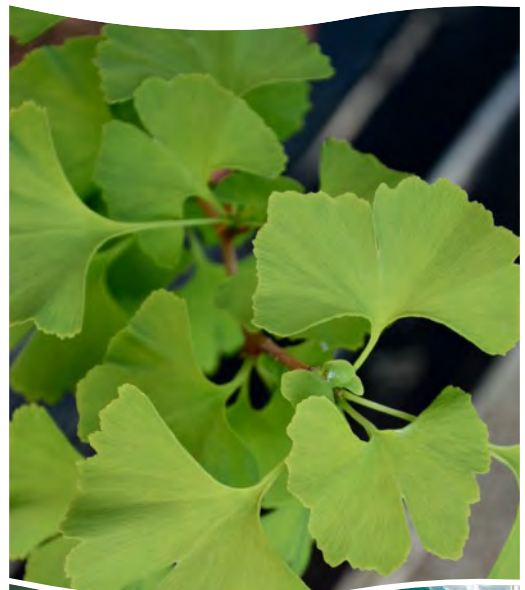


Ginkgo biloba

David Welch
Winter Gardens

A workshop as part of an artistic response to the Ginkgo biloba plants in the David Welch Winter Gardens envisaged by artist Fiona Swapp.

Fiona is an ethnobotanical artist and explores the connection of plants with people, place and time



The Ginkgo biloba creative project is timed to coincide with an international peace project that undertakes to grow seeds from atomic bomb-damaged trees – it is now 75 years since the nuclear attacks on Japan at the end of World War Two.

As part of the Mayors for Peace project the seeds of the Ginkgo biloba trees that regenerated from the damaged trees in Hiroshima are gifted to cities around the world in order to promote peace.

In 2015, Aberdeen’s Lord Provost was gifted a set of seeds, and a team of gardeners at the Duthie Park have successfully germinated the seeds, which are now small trees.



Ginkgo biloba

Duthie Park,
Winter Gardens



Permission was sought and has been granted by the Parks Officer for ethnobotanical artist Fiona Swapp to create an artistic response to these trees. This will progress by engaging with the public and schools through a short artist residency to sketch and paint the plants, to give drawing/painting/craft workshops at the Winter Gardens Education Room in collaboration with the Duthie Park Ranger Service in May and June. All the artworks created by public and artist will be curated to form an exhibition placed in the Foyer of the Winter Gardens in August 2020 and to extend for a time yet to be determined. Included would be information panel/s about the Ginkgo trees and their link to the Mayors for Peace project.

With this in mind and due to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, Fiona has created the following information and worksheets for the children to remotely draw or paint their own artworks from the attached information and reference or to use the drawings in the back of the file to colour and interpret in their own way.

Ginkgo biloba

Facts:

1. The Ginkgo biloba tree is known as Ginkgo, the Maidenhair Tree or sometimes the Fossil Tree.
2. The first stage in the life cycle of a tree is the **seed**.
*In 2015 a packet of **Ginkgo biloba** seeds was gifted to the Lord Provost of Aberdeen*
The seeds were planted by gardeners in the Winter Gardens
3. The seeds soon began to grow, this is called **germination**
4. At this stage the plant is now called a **seedling**.
5. Once the plant grows a bit more it is called a **sapling**
The trees in the Winter Gardens are now, in 2020, almost 5 years old and measure between 70 and 150 centimetres tall
6. Every year **leaf buds** develop along each **node** on the **branch** of the tree
7. The **leaves** begin to emerge from the **buds** in late February
8. By late April the leaves are fully open and are a **bright green**.
9. The leaves are different to ones that you may have seen before and are fan-shaped and some have a split in the middle.
10. All the veins of the leaf come out from the stem
11. The **flowers** of the tree are **bright green** and the seed is usually a **deep yellow brown**
The trees in the Winter Gardens are too young to produce either flower or seed.
12. In the autumn the leaves change colour to a **bright yellow**
13. The Ginkgo biloba tree is **deciduous**, which means its leaves fall off in winter time.

Task:

Looking at the following drawings and photographs, create your own artwork, no larger than A4 (29.7cm x 21cm), interpreting the shape, the colour or the patterns you see.

- The surface to draw or paint on can be any colour of paper or a piece of card that you may have at home, it could be an old cereal packet or envelope or a plain or lined piece of paper. If you like embroidery, you can draw the outline on a piece of material and sew the lines of the leaf.
- You can draw with pencils, crayons, pens, chalk, pastels or paint if you have some.
- The drawings in the back were drawn with a brush pen or an ink pen if you want to make similar drawings or copy them to colour in.

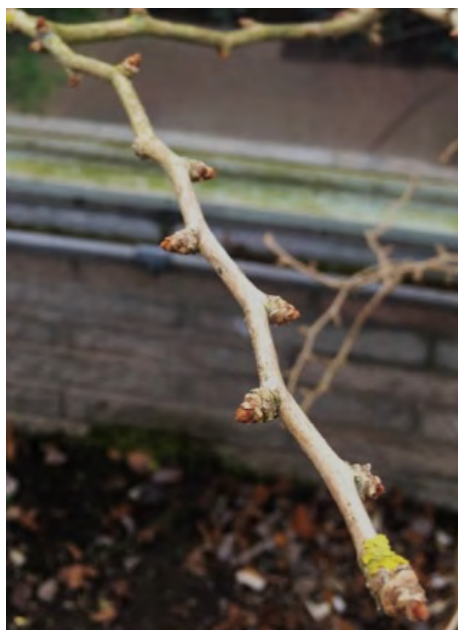
I look forward to seeing your work.

Happy drawing!

Fiona



Ginkgo biloba – facts in pictures



Buds on branches
(early February)
The branch has an interesting zig-zag shape



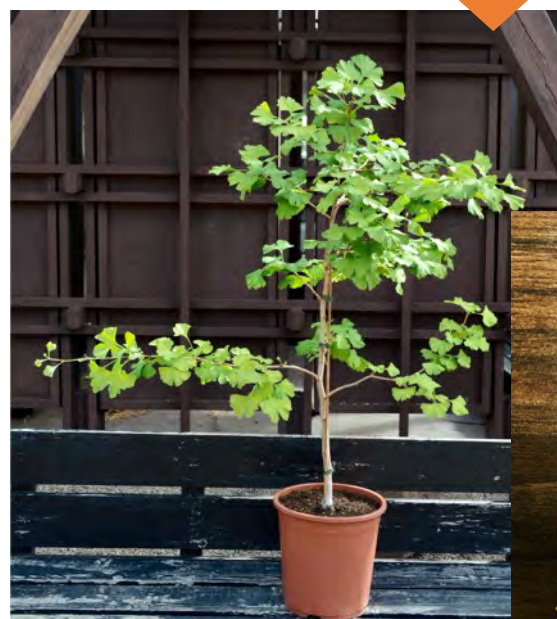
Emerging leaves on branches
(late February)

The leaves are very small at this Stage of growth



Ginkgo biloba leaf fully open and has grown larger to full size about 7 to 10 cm size (April)
The leaves are unusually fan-shaped in shape and some have a split down the centre and the veins all lead out from the stem

This is one of the nurtured Ginkgo trees is now in April 2020 about 100 cm tall
Branches alternate on each side of the main stem or trunk of the tree

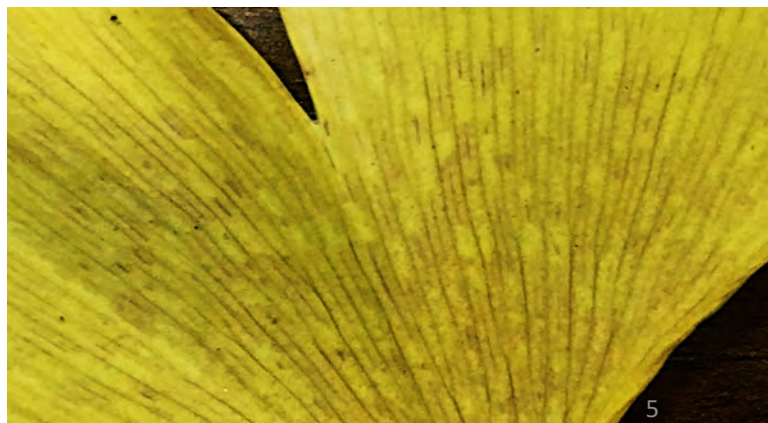


Ginkgo biloba leaf in Autumn time
(September/ October)
Usually a bright yellow. Also notice the interesting patterns on the leaf

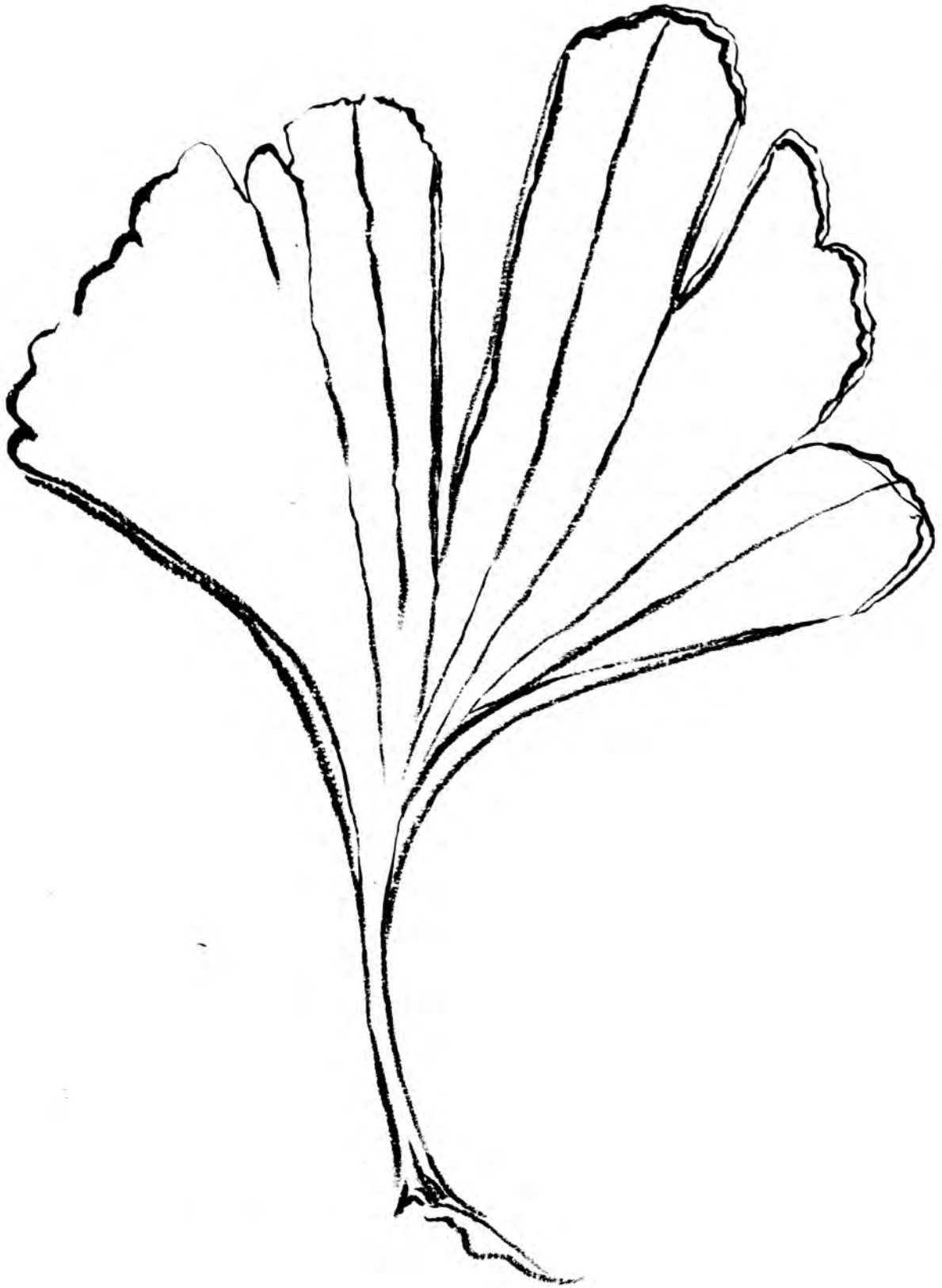
Ginkgo biloba task reference photographs



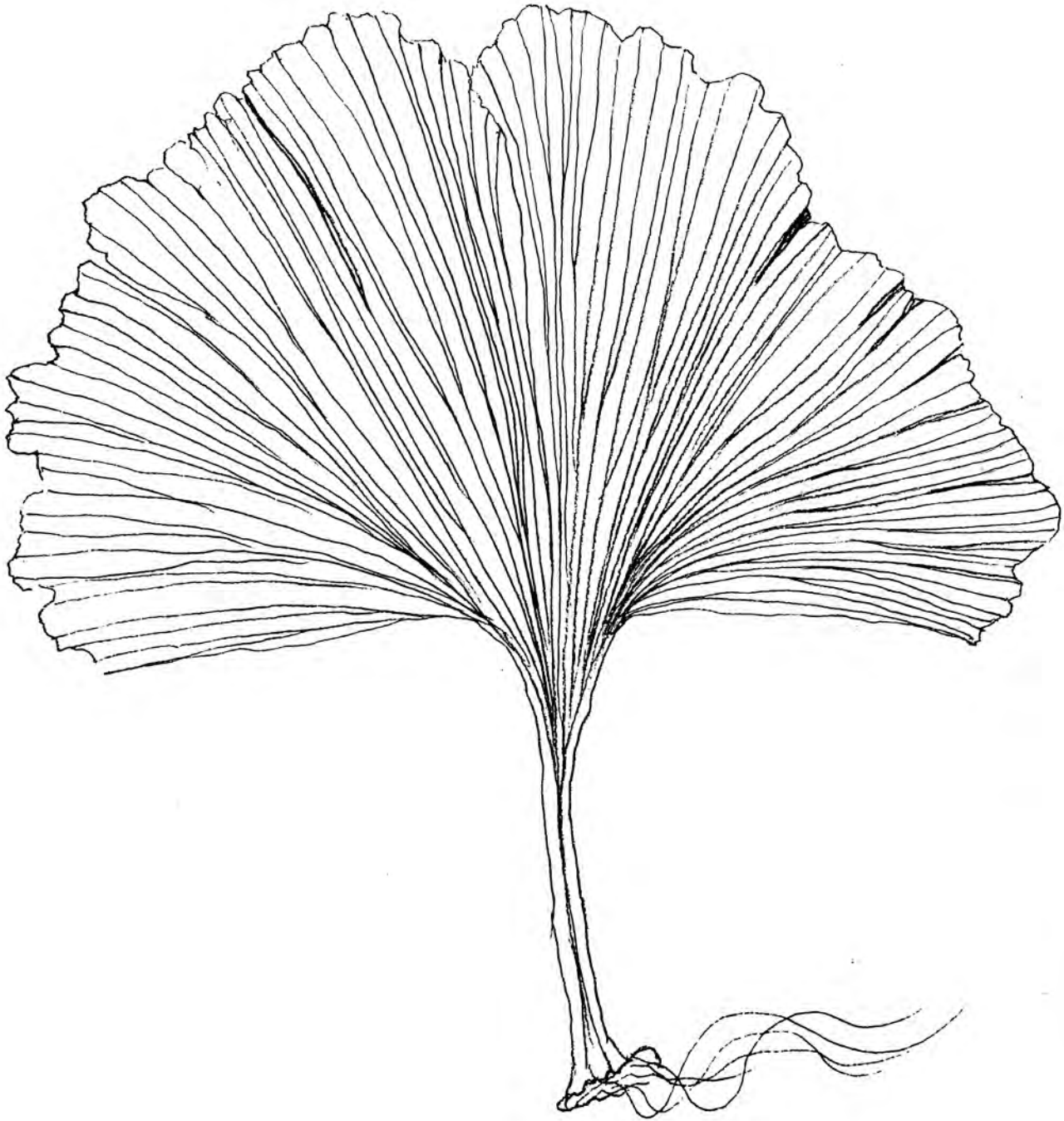
Use these images and the ones on the other pages to make your own artwork to be exhibited at the winter gardens. *Below is a detail of the leaf which shows interesting patterns that you may want to use in your drawing/painting.*



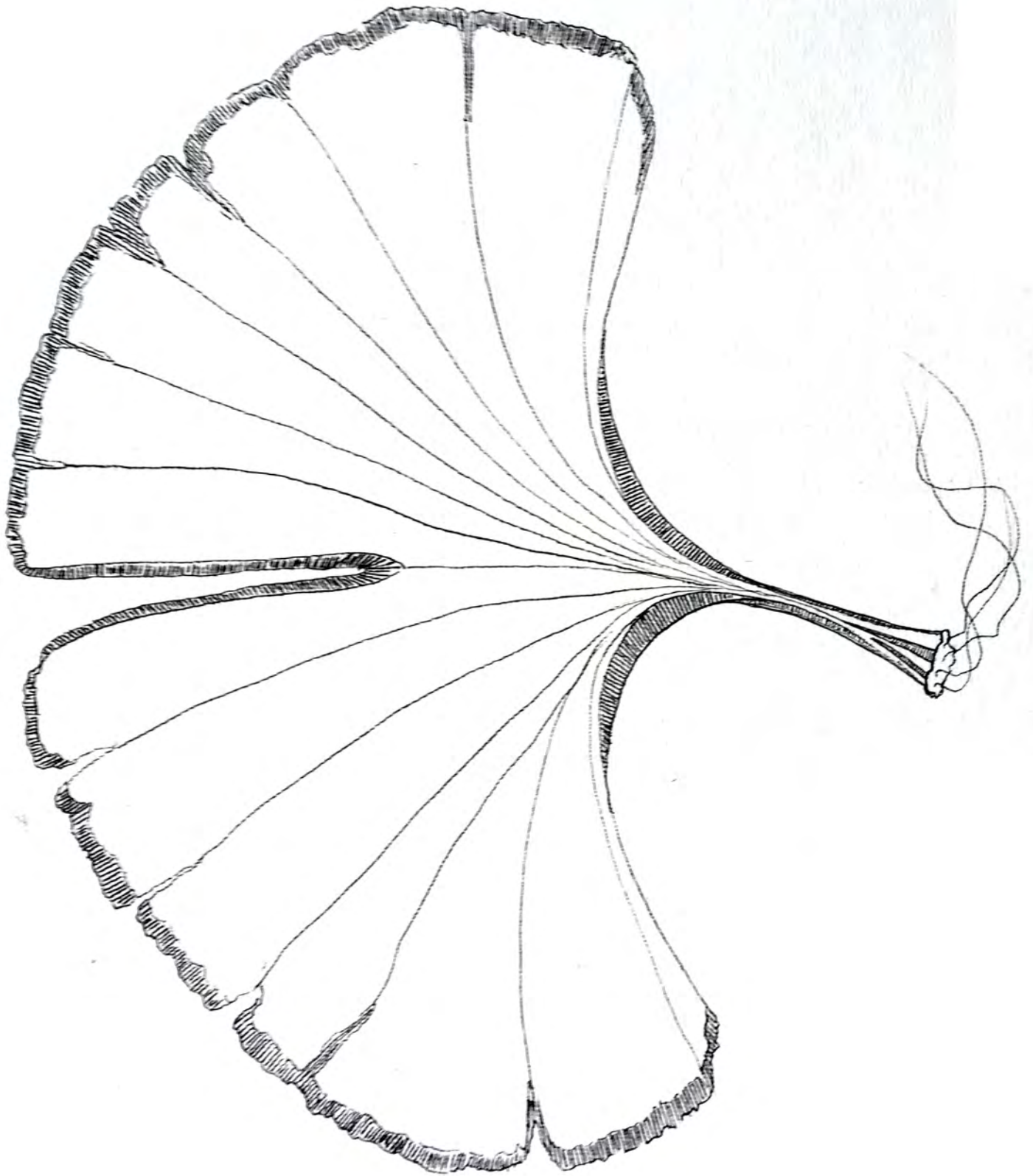
Ginkgo biloba



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