

# THE MAPS PSYCHEDELIC INTEGRATION WORKBOOK

A guide to help process,  
understand, and incorporate  
psychedelic insights into  
your daily life



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## Our Mission: Changing Minds for Good

Founded in 1986, the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit research and educational organization that develops medical, legal, and cultural contexts for people to benefit the careful uses of psychedelics and marijuana.

## Our Vision: A Post-Prohibition Society

MAPS envisions a world where psychedelics and marijuana are safely and legally available for beneficial uses, and where research is governed by rigorous scientific evaluation of their risks and benefits.

## How We Move Forward:

### Advancing Research

Fostering new research directions, removing barriers to research, and maximizing access

### Changing Policy

Advocating for policies rooted in evidence-based, equitable, and compassionate frameworks that support the dignity and rights of people who use drugs

### Evolving Education

Creating cutting-edge educational resources for professionals and the public, and convening people who share our vision

***Disclaimer:** This workbook is for educational purposes only and is not a substitute for medical or psychological advice. Please consult a qualified professional for mental health support. MAPS does not promote or endorse the use of illegal substances.*

## Our Principles



Healing for All



Prioritize Public Benefit



Set the Setting



Be the Bridge



Open Science, Open Books



See Past the Paradox



Consciousness without Criminalization

# Welcome to Your Integration Journey

This workbook is designed to support your psychedelic integration journey by offering a space for reflection, creativity, and ongoing personal growth.

You are invited to move through these pages intuitively – responding to what resonates and leaving aside what does not. Your journey is unique, and this workbook is simply a companion along the way.

**There is no right or wrong way to use this workbook.**

## Inside, you'll find:



Prompts to help you process and remember your experiences



Exercises to deepen your connection with mind, body, spirit, and community



Creative activities to support emotional expression and insight



Gentle guidance for integrating psychedelic experiences into your daily life

# What is Psychedelic Integration?

The process of integration involves making sense of and incorporating the insights, emotions, and changes that may arise during a psychedelic journey into your everyday life. Integration is an essential aspect of the psychedelic experience because these substances can bring about intense and often challenging insights, emotions, and shifts in perspective.

There's no one-size-fits-all approach to integration. You can do it independently or supported by peers, community, coaches, or therapists. There are a wide variety of integration strategies, and there are many frameworks and practices that can be used. No matter the approach, integration is an intentional process for understanding a psychedelic experience and bringing its lessons into daily life. It is a fundamental and essential part of using psychedelics for personal growth.

Psychedelic integration is a personal and ongoing process. Each individual's experience is unique, and the integration process may unfold over an extended period of time. Professional or experienced guidance, when available, can be beneficial in facilitating a more structured and supportive integration process.



# Why Do I Need an Integration Workbook?

An integration workbook can help provide some structure to the integration process and ensure that you get as much out of the experience as possible. Specifically, it can help with:

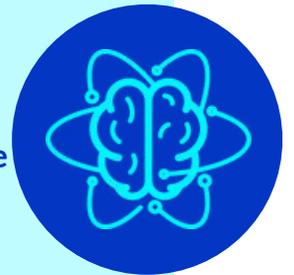
## REFLECTION AND PROCESSING

Psychedelic experiences can be intense and profound, often bringing up a range of emotions, thoughts, and insights. This workbook provides a space for you to reflect on and process these experiences in a structured and intentional way.



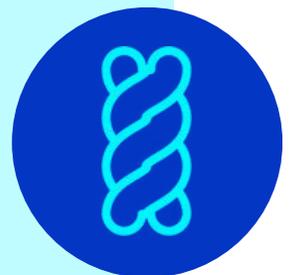
## MEMORY ENHANCEMENT

Psychedelic experiences may lead to heightened states of consciousness and altered perceptions. This workbook can help you capture and preserve details that might be challenging to remember accurately over time, ensuring that you have a record of your thoughts and experiences.



## EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Writing in this workbook allows you to express and explore your emotions in a safe and private space. This can be especially important when dealing with intense or challenging emotions that may arise during or after a psychedelic experience.



## CELEBRATING PROGRESS

Regularly documenting your thoughts and feelings over time allows you to track your progress, growth, and changes. This can be a powerful motivator and provide a sense of accomplishment as you see how your perspectives and behaviors evolve.



# Before You Begin

Preparing for psychedelic integration is a thoughtful and intentional process that ideally begins before your psychedelic experience — but you can still reap the benefits of integration if you're just reading this now, after a trip. Here are some things to consider as you prepare:

1.

## SET INTENTIONS

Before embarking on a psychedelic journey, set clear and positive intentions. Consider what you hope to explore, understand, or work on during the experience, while allowing space for what may emerge. Intentions can guide the journey and provide a framework for integration afterward.

2.

## CHOOSE A SUPPORTIVE SETTING

Ensure that the physical and social environment for your psychedelic experience is safe, comfortable, and supportive. Consider factors such as lighting, music, and the presence of supportive, trusted individuals.

3.

## CULTIVATE MINDFULNESS PRACTICES

Incorporate mindfulness practices such as journaling, meditation, or deep-breathing exercises into your daily routine. These practices can help you stay grounded during the experience and aid in the integration process afterward.

4.

## ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATION PLAN

Develop a plan for integration before your psychedelic experience. This may include identifying activities or practices you can engage in post-experience, such as journaling, meditation, or creative expression, as well as ensuring you have time set aside for both rest and integration.

5.

## BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM

Connect with friends, family, or a community that understands and supports your decision to explore psychedelics. Having a supportive network can be crucial during the integration process.

# When Should I Integrate, and for How Long?

## THE RIGHT TIME TO BEGIN

The timing and duration of psychedelic integration can vary from person to person, and there isn't a one-size-fits-all answer. Many choose to begin integration soon after a psychedelic experience. A period of rest can be an appropriate first step.

Psychedelic experiences are believed to lead to a period of increased neuroplasticity that lasts anywhere from a few days to a month or so. Integrating during this time allows you to explore and process the immediate insights and emotions while they are still fresh, while taking advantage of this period of receptivity to change.

## INTEGRATION AS A LIFELONG PROCESS

Integration is not a one-time event but an ongoing process. Incorporate integration practices into your daily life. This may include mindfulness, meditation, yoga, creative expression, or any other activities that support your mental and emotional well-being.

Consistent practice can help reinforce and deepen the integration process. Integration is an ongoing process, and you may continue to integrate a profound psychedelic experience for years or even the rest of your life.

# Understanding “Good” and “Bad” Trips

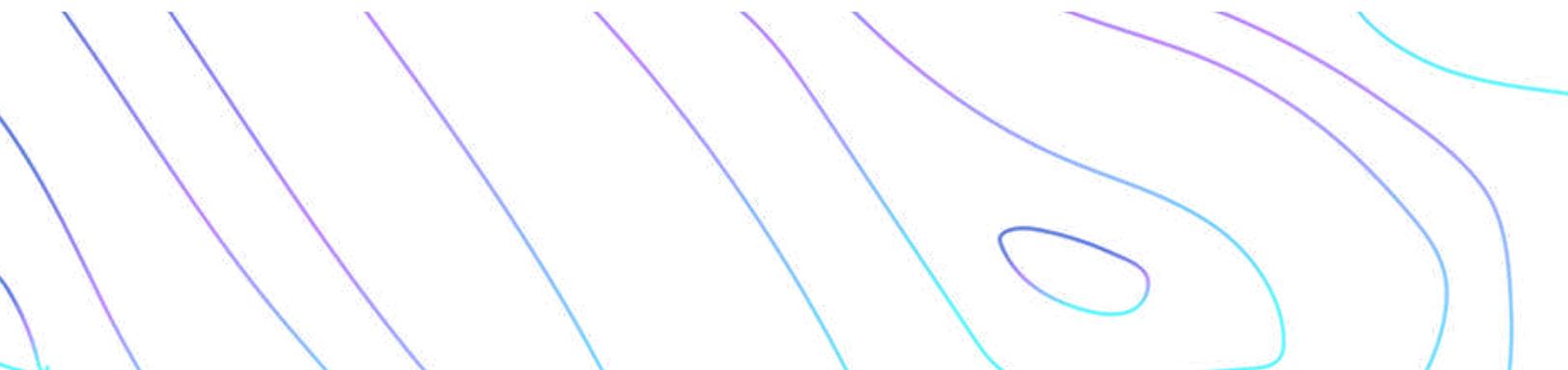
First, we need to talk about labels. People often use “bad trip” to describe a range of experiences that seem to be, or from the outside look like, less-than-ideal psychedelic experiences. The reality of working with psychedelics is a lot more complicated and is not well-served by reduction, judgment, flattening, or simplification as “bad” or “good” (although we know sometimes it can be unavoidable).

Almost everyone who has experience with psychedelics has experienced challenges before, during, and after a psychedelic journey. And, of course, our community is bound together in the belief that psychedelics have unique and valuable benefits. It is all too easy to simply equate “pleasurable” or “fun” with “good” while labeling emotionally difficult, frightening, or somber with “bad.” Pleasure, if chased, can become part of detrimental cycles; challenges, if met, can produce some of the most meaningful and lasting impacts.

We encourage you to go deeper and approach your self, world, and experiences as holistically as you can. As our friends at The Zendo Project remind us:

**“Difficult does not mean bad.”**

**We can't say it too many times:** if you've had a difficult or challenging experience, you are not alone. A range of help is available, from some quick tips to volunteers and professionals who specialize in integrating challenging experiences.



# Integrating After Challenging Experiences

Challenges can range from thoughts or images that you can't really make sense of, to notions in opposition to your emotions or beliefs, to psychotic breaks and emergencies.

**First, make sure you are safe. Harm reduction is a critical part of using psychedelics responsibly.**

With proper support and integration, most of these challenges can become meaningful and beneficial. But it's work! Transforming challenging experiences starts with proper planning, harm reduction, and communities of support. If you need someone to sit with you as you navigate a challenging experience, consider calling the Fireside Project or someone you trust who has trained in peer support.

## IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE NEED IMMEDIATE HELP

- If you are at a festival or event, The Zendo Project may have a presence there.
- If you need support by phone, The Fireside Project can be reached at 62-FIRESIDE.
- To find a licensed specialist who can provide ongoing help, navigate to the [psychedelic.support](https://www.psychedelic.support) website.



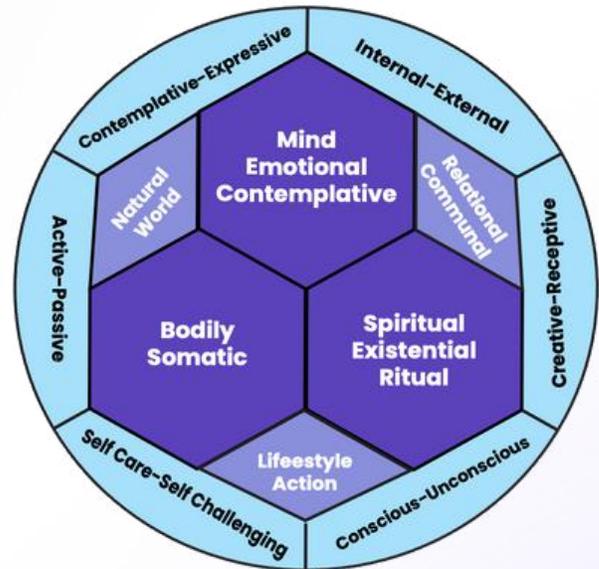
[psychedelic.support](https://www.psychedelic.support)



# A Synthesized Model Of Integration

There are many different definitions of integration and models for describing how integration works in theory.

In perhaps the simplest terms, integration is the process of making sense of psychedelic experiences. At MAPS, we adopt the intention that integration be approached holistically. For this reason, we are drawn to Bathje, Majeski, & Kudowor's (2022) *Synthesized Model of Integration*.



## THE 6 DOMAINS OF INTEGRATION



MIND



BODY



SPIRIT



RELATIONSHIPS



NATURE



LIFESTYLE

## THE 6 CONTINUUMS OF INTEGRATION

1. Contemplative ↔ Expressive
2. Internal ↔ External
3. Creative ↔ Receptive
4. Conscious ↔ Unconscious
5. Self Care ↔ Self Challenging
6. Active ↔ Passive

# The Six Domains Of Integration

It can be beneficial to plan integration practices and intentions that relate to several (or all) of these domains and the connections among them, in alignment with the idea that integration is about the whole of experience and intactness.



## MIND

Processing and integrating emotions that surfaced during the psychedelic journey



## BODY

Considering how the psychedelic experience may influence lifestyle choices, physical health, and habits



## SPIRIT

Exploring any spiritual or existential insights and integrating them into one's understanding of life, purpose, and meaning



## RELATIONSHIPS

Reflecting on how the psychedelic experience may impact relationships with friends, family, partners, or the broader community



## NATURE

Reflecting on the impact of the psychedelic experience on environmental awareness and sustainable practices



## LIFESTYLE

Identifying routines and habits that support your well-being, or changes to lifestyle that would be beneficial

# The Six Continuums Of Integration

Each of these continuums pairs well with one or more of the domains of integration, and the same activity could fall on an end or in the middle of one or more of these continuums. Specific integration activities can relate to more than one continuum.

For example, a walking meditation in nature might be thought of as Contemplative, Active, and occurring in a middle space in the Internal-External continuum.

## Contemplative ↔ Expressive

Activities on this continuum can involve considering our thoughts and feelings and/or expressing them. They can occur in isolation or with a group. Meditation is on this continuum. So is ecstatic dance.

## Internal ↔ External

When we work with this continuum, we can turn inwards. Or, we can move our attention into the world around us. Journaling relates to this continuum. So does sharing your experience with a trusted friend or guide.

## Creative ↔ Receptive

Many psychonauts have been inspired to produce art or felt as if they received deep insight through mystical experiences. Drawing or even scribbling is an example of activity on the Creative-Receptive continuum. So is a simple reflection on any changes in feelings or perception that you experienced during your trip.

## Conscious ↔ Unconscious

As we integrate, we can reshape limiting beliefs we held unconsciously. Or we can choose to make changes in our habits and routines. Creating a new bedtime routine might fall into this continuum, or pulling tarot cards and thinking about how their symbolism and archetypes relate to our experience.

## Self Care ↔ Self Challenging

Psychedelic experiences and integration can both be wonderful spaces for self-care. But they also often involve an element of challenge. Self challenge is an important part of growth and it is important not to pathologize difficulties. Be willing to go deeper with yourself and your obstacles. And if you need support, ask.

## Active ↔ Passive

This continuum reminds us that sense-making can occur through both action and rest. Playing a favorite sport or spending time with a hobby can be an active part of integration. Meditation could be considered more passive. And then there are all the activities in the middle like journaling, scribbling, and so much more.

# Ready to Integrate?

## How To Use This Workbook

**Trust your inner guide.** There is no one right way to reflect, create, or process your experience. Move through this workbook intuitively, using the sections that resonate most.

**Make note of the details** of your psychedelic experience as guided by the prompts in the “Review Your Experience” section below.

**Capture your general impressions, memories, and reflections** on the experience as a whole, using the questions in the “Remembering and Reflecting” section below.

**Circle one or more of the "Integration Domains"** that you wish to focus on for this session, and reflect on the questions listed for each domain. You may choose to explore a few questions deeply or many questions briefly.

**MIND**

**SPIRIT**

**RELATIONSHIPS**

**BODY**

**LIFESTYLE**

**NATURE**

**Engage in one or more of the artistic exercises** outlined in the “Artistic Expression” section.

**Integrate your integration** by reflecting on the process using the prompts in the final section of this guide.

# Review Your Experience

*Make note of the following details*

**Date of Experience:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Drug:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dosage?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Route of Administration:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What was your state of mind going into the experience?**

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**How did you prepare?** (sleep, nutrition, media consumption, mindfulness practice, etc.)

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**Where was your journey?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who was with you?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What music, if any, was playing?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What sort of furniture or other materials were in your surroundings?**

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**What was supportive of your experience? What would you have changed or added to increase your sense of safety and comfort?**

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# Remembering and Reflecting On The Experience

**What were your intentions for this experience?**

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**How did your experience respond to your intention?**

*Also considering opposites of your intention that might be barriers. It may help to start by assuming the experience was just what it needed to be.*

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**Describe the overall feeling of your psychedelic experience.**

*What emotions, thoughts, and sensations stood out to you the most?*

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**Reflect on the visuals or symbols that appeared during your journey.**

*How can you address and process these emotions in a useful way?*

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# MIND



The word “psychedelic” is derived from Greek terms for “mind” and “to manifest,” so you have probably heard the term “mind manifesting” in reference to psychedelics. It’s remarkable, then, that the psychedelic experience is probably most often described as “ineffable.” Even the most seasoned psychonauts may find it difficult to describe their experiences to another person.

By working in the domain of Mind during integration, you may find it easier to understand your experience through language and emotion, and therefore easier to relate the insights you gained with others...regardless of whether you disclose what was happening when you gained them.

## **How did the psychedelic experience impact your emotions?**

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## **Were there moments of intense joy, fear, or sadness?**

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## **Explore any unresolved emotions that surfaced during the trip.**

*How can you address and process these emotions in a useful way?*

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**How have your thought patterns and mental processes shifted since your psychedelic experience?**

*Are there recurring themes or new perspectives that you've noticed?*

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**Explore mindfulness techniques that resonate with you.**

*How can you incorporate mindfulness into your daily routine to maintain mental clarity and presence?*

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**Identify specific cognitive insights gained during the psychedelic experience.**

*How can you apply these insights to enhance your problem-solving skills or creative thinking in your everyday life?*

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**Reflect on any heightened sense of mindfulness or presence during the psychedelic experience.**

*How can you bring this awareness into your daily life?*

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**Explore the role of gratitude in your life.**

*What are you grateful for, and how can you express that gratitude more regularly?*

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**Reflect on the sensations and awareness of your body during the psychedelic journey.**

*How can you maintain a deeper connection with your body through practices like yoga, meditation, or mindful movement?*

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**Consider how your psychedelic experience may have influenced your relationship with food and overall well-being.**

*Are there dietary changes or wellness practices you'd like to implement?*

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**Explore physical activities that align with your newfound insights.**

*How can activities like exercise, dance, or outdoor adventures contribute to your physical well-being?*

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# RELATIONSHIPS



We are social animals. One of the most sublime aspects of being human is our ability to form and deepen relationships and community. Integration asks us to take our psychedelic (and other) experiences and consider how they can further our connection to others.

It is important to look for safe people and safe community spaces that allow us to practice open communication, exploration of truth and insight, and open dialogue with others. Integration may also call us to share new insights, skills, ideas, and challenges with those we love or those we are just meeting. Many report that psychedelic experiences, properly integrated, have helped them take new approaches with family, friends, partners, and colleagues.

## **Reflect on the impact of your psychedelic experience on your relationships.**

*How can you foster deeper connections and more open communication with those around you?*

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## **Explore whether there are safe and supportive spaces to share your psychedelic experiences within your community.**

*How can open dialogue contribute to collective understanding and growth?*

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**Consider ways to contribute positively to your community.**

*How can you share your skills, insights, or newfound perspectives to benefit others?*

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**Explore how your psychedelic experience may have influenced your relationships with others.**

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**Are there new insights into your connections with friends, family, or partners?**

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**Consider whether there are aspects of your communication or behavior that you would like to improve based on your psychedelic insights.**

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# ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

**If you have not yet had a chance to express yourself creatively, we strongly encourage it!**

On the following pages are drawing activities from our friends at Sana Healing Collective that are sure to inspire your inner artist.

**Play. Create. Enjoy!**

**How can you continue to express yourself creatively in your daily life?**

*How can you foster deeper connections and more open communication with those around you?*

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**If you engaged in any form of creative expression during or after the psychedelic experience, reflect on the symbolism and meaning behind your creations.**

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# Scribble Drawing

Art can give insight into the unconscious, giving voice to something beyond the ego's grasp.

## MATERIALS:

You can do this with anything you have on hand! Crayons, oil pastels, markers, colored pencils, pens, whatever you have!

## INSTRUCTIONS:

Allow 20-30 minutes of uninterrupted quiet time to do this process.

## MEDITATE

It's always helpful to meditate for a few moments before starting this practice – try taking 3 deep breaths and consciously connecting to your physical body. Feel your breath entering and leaving your body. Continue breathing in and out with awareness until you feel settled and centered.

## SET AN INTENTION

What situation would you like insight, help, or guidance with?

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## SCRIBBLE!

Select a color that speaks to you and put it in your non-dominant hand. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and recall the situation you want guidance with. Scribble on the next page without lifting the drawing tool from the paper and keeping your eyes closed.

## FLESH OUT THE IMAGE

Use the rest of the colors of chalk pastels, paint, or crayons to flesh out the image and develop the drawing. You may also fill in the background or add other elements, some days your scribble drawings may be very simple, others more elaborate. Follow your intuition and let it be fun!

## REFLECTING

Spending time reflecting on the following questions.

- *What's going on in this picture?*
- *What makes you say that?*
- *What more can you find?*
- *If this image could talk, what would it say?*
- *Does this image have any advice for me about my original intention?*
- *Anything it wants me to be aware of, do differently, or change?*



# Blind Contour Drawing

Contour drawing is drawing the edges of something. Continuous contour drawing means that once you start, you don't pick the pencil up again until you finish. And blind means that you'll draw without ever looking away from your subject, so you won't see what you're doing on the page until the very end.

This method allows us to pay full attention to our subject - to see the details created by the contours, which can extend beyond the edges of the subject itself. Not just the outline of a leaf, but the window frame behind it, the edge of a harsh shadow, or the light beam in the water of a vase.

Focusing on the subject can help reduce judgments and expectations about what is on the page. The objective isn't to make a pretty image. It's to loosen up & feel comfortable in your drawing, to attend to what's important rather than what isn't, like self-criticism or pride.

Below are a few examples of what you can expect in a blind contour drawing. Although your sketch might not be an accurate representation, this process illuminates the connection between the botanical, your eyes, and your hand.



## INSTRUCTIONS

- Move your focus to your subject. Let your consciousness move between you and the subject, connecting to it, regarding it, and getting to know it.
- Choose which part of the subject you'll begin your single continuous line. Will it be the top, the lowest part on the left, or somewhere else?
- Put your pencil on the next page, bring your eyes back to the subject, and begin, slowly. You should take about 10 minutes or so to engage in this activity.
- You might try to move your pencil at the same speed as your eyes move over the contours.
- You might imagine that your drawing implement is touching the subject instead of the paper.
- Notice what details are coming to your attention

## REFLECT

How does it look to you now after attending to it so closely?

What, if anything, has it revealed about itself to you, or otherwise taught you?



# Integrating Your Integration

**Reflect on your integration activities.**

*Do any new themes or insights arise? Do you feel called to spend more time contemplating those new insights?*

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**Did anything come up that you would like to share with a member of your support network?**

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**What would you like to remember next time you are setting intentions?**

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# What's Next?

## Congratulations!

Now that you've integrated your psychedelic experience, you have embarked on an ongoing journey of personal and spiritual growth. Post-integration is not a fixed endpoint, but rather a continuation of the transformative process initiated by the psychedelic experience.

**Here are several aspects to consider as you move forward after psychedelic integration:**

- 1. CONTINUOUS SELF-REFLECTION**  
Cultivate a habit of regular self-reflection. Ongoing introspection allows you to stay connected with your evolving thoughts, feelings, and insights.
- 2. INTEGRATING LESSONS INTO DAILY LIFE**  
Actively apply the insights gained during integration into your daily choices, behaviors, and relationships. Consistent integration into your life is a key aspect of sustained personal growth.
- 3. SEEKING PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE**  
If needed, continue seeking guidance from therapists, counselors, or integration professionals. Periodic check-ins can offer support and help you navigate challenges that may arise along your journey.
- 4. SETTING NEW INTENTIONS**  
Consider setting new intentions for your ongoing journey. These intentions can guide your actions, experiences, and personal development in the months and years ahead.

It's important to approach this post-integration period with patience and openness. The journey is unique to each individual, and the process of growth and self-discovery is ongoing. While psychedelics can serve as catalysts for change, the real work lies in the choices and actions taken in the aftermath of those experiences. **Always prioritize your well-being, and if needed, seek professional guidance as you navigate your continued journey of personal development.**



