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Creative printing with leaves and flowers

It is a very simple, fun, easy and very effective process and not a lot of material is needed.

Material

Leaves and flowers

Pick up different type of leaves and flowers from the park or your garden.

If you don't use the leaves on the same day place them in newspaper to flatten them – you will be able to keep them for a few days. Just keep the flowers in water.

Some leaves or some flowers will work better than others, so it is necessary to experiment but you will always get some interesting and unexpected marks.

Water

Just a little bit of water in a small cup

Paint

Any type of paint can be used: poster paint, acrylic paint...

The metallic leads of glass jars are very practical and you can put a little bit of paint of different colours in them.

The paint shouldn't be too runny or too thick but have a smooth and creamy consistency. But no worries you just need to experiment.

Brushes

Medium size flat brush

Newspaper/ newsprint

Prepare a stack of pre-cut newspaper/ newsprint (A5/A4 size)

Printing paper

Soft, smooth, absorbent paper will work really well.

It is good to experiment with different type of paper and also coloured paper.

I have been using cartridge paper for the demonstration.

Wall lining paper will work really well as well as A4 printing paper.

If the paper is too thin it might wrinkle, put it can then be flatten if it is put under heavy books as soon as it is dry.

(You can glue one piece/ pieces of coloured tissue paper on your printing paper. It will give you a coloured background)

Process

- 1 Choose a leaf /or flower and place it on a piece of newspaper. Flowers can sometimes be a bit thick – try to flatten it a bit.
- 2 Cover the leaf/ flower completely with paint.
- 3 Lift carefully the leaf and place it carefully onto the printing paper, the paint facing the printing paper. At this stage try not to move the leaf/ flower.
- 4 Take a piece of newspaper and place it on the top.
- 5 Press gently but firmly with your hand: You are using your hand to apply pressure on the leaf.
- 6 Discard the dirty newspaper.
- 7 Gently lift the leaf/ flower from the printing paper. Sometimes, pieces of flowers or leaf might get stuck to the paper - you can either remove them delicately or leave them on.
- 8 Have a look at your print and let it dry. It will look a bit different when it will be dry.

Suggestion

- You can use your leaf /flowers a few times.
- You can print with an other colour on the top of a print.

Have fun, experiment, there is no right or wrong.
Let your imagination lead the way.