

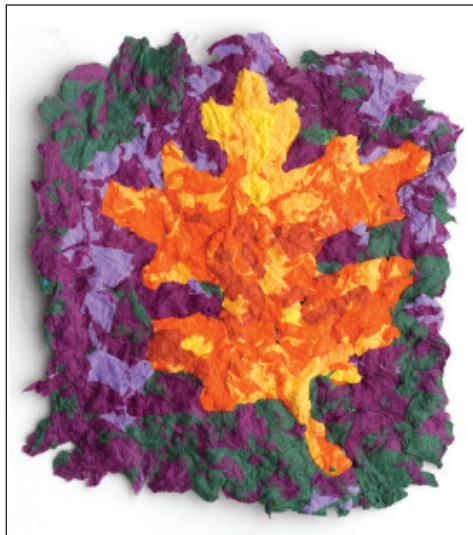
No-Blender Pulp Painting

Felting is an ancient fiber craft that transforms the fibers of wool (or wool yarn) into a dense cloth by bonding and shrinking the fibers together with heat, agitation and moisture. In Korea, a traditional paper-making technique called “Joomchi” uses a similar process with rice paper. Water and agitation cause the paper fibers to shrink and bond with one another, which can then be sculpted and formed into thick, textural artwork and surfaces. In the western art world, “Pulp Painting” is a paper art technique that involves the process of creating pulp, combining it with an adhesive and reforming it into a sheet of paper.

This project is a simple, tidy way to create the look of pulp painting without the mess of a blender or even the use of adhesive. Non-bleeding tissue paper is combined with water and agitated (torn) so that the paper fibers separate and make a rough pulp. Pressing the paper onto an absorbent (canvas) surface causes the fibers to re-bond with one another and, when dry, form a thicker, stronger paper.

Grade Levels K-12

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.



Preparation

1. Mount 8” x 10” canvas pieces to a temporary rigid surface such as scrap corrugated cardboard or foamboard. Use masking tape or staples to secure. This will make it easy to move the artwork, protect table surfaces from dampness and keep the canvas from buckling.

Process

1. On a piece of 8” x 10” canvas, lightly sketch a design for the pulp painting.
2. Tear tissue paper into small pieces. Work with one color at a time or mix colors together.

Materials

Blick® Art Tissue, 20 color assortment (11308-1007), 100-sheet package 12” x 18”; share one package across class

Fredrix® Style 568 Medium Weight Canvas, unprimed (07303-1352), 52” x 3-Yd roll; cut to 8” x 10” pieces for 67 per roll

Elmer’s® Glue-All, 4-oz bottles (23810-1004); share four across classroom

Bowls for water

Paper Towels

OPTIONAL:

Blick® Artists’ Acrylic Mediums, Gloss (00623-1036) or Matte (00623-1046); share one pint across classroom

Crescent® Melton Mounting Boards 28” x 44” Black (13003-2102) or White (13003-1102), cut to 8-1/2” x 11” for 12 per board

Scratch Art® 3D-O’s® (14904-1003) package of 400

Process, continued

Place tissue paper pieces in bowl and add just enough water to wet the paper. Mix water and paper with fingers, tearing and pressing pieces together to form small, pulpy clumps of paper.

3. Press tissue paper pulp onto the canvas surface to make the “painting.” Hints:
 - Work one area of the painting at a time, so that pieces of pulp overlap one another.
 - Blot the paper pulp with a paper towel frequently, pressing down to remove excess moisture.
 - Paintings do not need to be solid forms. Consider the importance of negative space.
 - Use light and dark tones of a color to create a shaded look.

NOTE: as the tissue pulp dries, the fibers will be interlocked and re-bonded to one another to form a solid piece. HOWEVER, once a section is dry, it can't be re-bonded. Therefore, if the painting is to be created in multiple sessions, a small amount of glue will be necessary in order for the wet pulp to bond to the dry. Place a dab of glue on the dry pulp area and directly place the wet pulp into the glue.

4. Allow the pulp paintings to dry thoroughly. The time required will depend on the rate of evaporation. Drying time may be shortened by placing the painting in a sunny location, near a fan or by using a hair dryer set on a cool setting.
5. Remove the canvas from the back of the pulp painting. The canvas may be reused. The pulp painting will be very fragile — to add strength and durability, coat the back side of the painting with white glue and allow to dry. The front side may be left as is or finished with a clear gloss or matte acrylic medium.

Options

1. Mount the finished paintings to a board for display. For added dimension, “float” the pulp paintings over the board using adhesive foam dots, such as 3D-O's.
2. Decorative tissue papers, such as Animal Skin Tissue Paper (11300-1003) may also be used. It is important to use non-bleeding tissue paper.

Options, continued

3. Add glitter, Jacquard® Pearl-Ex Pigments (27103-1129) or other mix-ins to the paper pulp while it is wet for special effects. A few drops of white glue added to the pulp will help mix-ins to adhere.
4. More advanced students may find the palette of the tissue paper colors to be limiting, so make custom shades and hues using permanent, artist's-quality markers. Blick® Studio® Markers can be used to tint the tissue paper colors or on white tissue paper to create different colors and patterns. Allow the ink to dry thoroughly on the tissue paper before wetting it.



Use permanent markers to make custom shades and hues on tissue paper

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National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

K-4 Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

9-12 Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

K-4 Students use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas

5-8 Students employ organizational structures and analyze what makes them effective or not effective in the communication of ideas

9-12 Students create multiple solutions to specific visual arts problems that demonstrate competence in producing effective relationships between structural choices and artistic functions