



A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN NATURE ART, IN THREE STAGES *with Sue van Copenhagen*

JOURNEY STAGE 1

WATERCOLOUR FLOW ACTIVITIES:

Using as many different leaf shapes as possible, start with leaves painted individually at first. On watercolour paper, draw around the leaf with a pencil (more advanced participants may wish to draw free hand). Have a few watercolour colours ready on a palette if using tube paints. Using a brush, wet the leaf. Touch colour into the water with the tip of a brush and without using brush strokes. Allow colours to mingle by tilting the paper around. Allow the paint to dry undisturbed.

Progression: apply individual leaf paintings to greeting cards (bought or made).

JOURNEY STAGE 2

MORE ADVANCED WATERCOLOUR FLOW ACTIVITIES:

Lay a selection of leaves over a sheet of watercolour paper in a pleasing design, ensuring that each leaf touches or overlaps another. Draw around the leaves lightly in pencil. As before, wet a leaf and touch watercolour paint into the water with a brush. Try to restrict the selection of colours to only three. Tilt the paper around to allow the pigments to mingle and create new colours. Before the leaf shape

has dried, wet the adjacent leaf and repeat the process, allowing the colour from one leaf to flow into the next. Continue until all the leaves have been painted.

JOURNEY STAGE 3

LEAF PAINTING: Try to use as many colours, shapes and textures of leaves as possible, and observe the differences between them. Starting with a simple one, lightly draw around it (or draw free hand) with a graphite or watercolour pencil on watercolour paper. Using only primary colours (red, yellow, blue) try to mix approximate colours for the leaf on the palette. With a brush, wet the leaf shape with water. Touch in the paint (slightly stronger than you think, because it will dry lighter). Try to use as few brush strokes as possible, allowing the water to carry the pigment instead, and if necessary tilt the paper to encourage the flow. The video shows a number of techniques for introducing texture: dabbing in thicker paint while the surface is still wet, sprinkling in table salt, dribbling in water to drying paint, scraping through damp paint with a watercolour pencil or sharp tool such as a wooden coffee stirrer. carefully press down. Gently lift off the kitchen paper and then the leaf, to reveal the print.

Build up a design of as many different shapes as possible, in a variety of colours.



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