



**Amy Hutchings**

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NAME OF EVENT: Exploring Leaves and Autumn Colour

DATE OF EVENT: 1 - 2pm GMT, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### **Exploring Leaves and Autumn Colour**

Join Amy, pick up your autumnal leaves, and create something unexpected! This is an experimental workshop where we try things out just to see what will happen! No experience necessary – please join in for the joy of trying a new technique, which you can then continue to explore after the workshop.

During this session we will direct print using found materials from the natural world. In advance, please collect those falling leaves. Flatter objects might print better, but I encourage you to test things out by selecting a variety of textures/ sizes and objects.

We will paint and print these, creating our own homage to the natural world, considering colour, placement, and pattern when printing. During the workshop we can share what we are creating and discuss what works well and what doesn't, learning from each other.

Put on your old clothes/ apron/ gloves, find a clean surface to work on, or place newspaper on a surface to protect it.

## Exploring Leaves with Autumn Colour

Materials you will need:

IN ADVANCE:

- Found natural objects – leaves, variety of sizes and shapes/ textures

For the workshop:

- Paper – to print on to (cartridge paper will be fine but try tissue paper/ printer paper/ coloured paper/ used envelopes etc).
- Paint brushes or a brayer/ printing roller/ sponge to apply ink/ paint • Ink tray (if using a brayer) or some form of palette for your paints/ inks • Block ink (preferred) or paints; I will be using block ink, but you can also use acrylic paint with block print medium, or even try with whatever paint you have! Acrylic, oil or gouache would be worth a try.
- Printing plate – this can be a Perspex/ acrylic plastic sheet, the translucent plastic such as that found in toy boxes, or a clean tile or sheet of glass. I have also used the back of a baking tray or a sheet of silver foil – use whatever you have to hand. I will be using [this](#)
- Newspaper or newsprint – to lay over your inky leaves when printing onto your chosen surface.
- A tablespoon/ wooden spoon, or just the back of your hands for printing.

How To:

With your collected leaves, let's celebrate the change of season. Using a brush or sponge, apply paint to one side of your leaf.

- Carefully place this ink-side-down on your chosen surface - this can be paper or even fabric
- Place newsprint or newspaper over the top of your leaf/ leaves - Using your spoon, or pressure from your hands, rub evenly all over the newspaper, pushing firmly down and taking care to keep the layers still. The pressure will transfer your ink onto the paper.
- Carefully peel up the newsprint and remove your leaf/leaves from the paper surface, taking care not to disturb the printed ink.

Taa Daa!!!! You have created your leaf print! Continue to explore this technique. Use different colours, consider placement of individual leaves, or whether you wish to create a pattern – you could use the leaves to build texture and create a landscape or describe a figurative scene/ object.