

# Easy Projects for Young People

## Nature Printing



MASTERPIECE ART INSTRUCTION

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### Leaf Print Triptych



Accordion-fold the three panels to make this free standing.

#### Supplies:

- White or light colored paper, 9" x 12"
- Fresh leaves of many types, with stem attached
- Tempera paints, at least 3 colors
- Dish soap
- Kitchen sponges
- Plates—china, foam or plastic
- Black construction paper, 9" x 12"
- Glue stick
- Newspapers
- Paper cutter or scissors, ruler & pencil

#### Directions:

1. Lay out newspapers to protect surfaces.
2. Tear more newspaper sheets into 4" x 4" squares. (These will be used as "blotters".)
3. Pour 3 different colors of tempera paints into 3 different plates. (Suggested groups: blue-violet-green, red-yellow-orange, green-

yellow-blue).

4. Add a drop of dish soap to each color and mix with a spoon or craft stick. (This will help the paint to adhere to the leaf.)
5. Using a different sponge for each color, lightly dab the underside of a leaf with one, two or three colors.
6. Carefully flip it over and lay it on a piece of white or colored paper.
7. Cover with one of the 4" x 4" newspaper "blotters". Press down firmly with your hand to make the print.
8. Carefully lift off the blotter.
9. Carefully lift off the leaf by the stem. Repeat with more leaf prints until you have filled your page. You can make some overlap if desired.
10. Once the paint is dried, cut the printed paper into 3 rectangles, 3-1/2" x 6-1/2" each. Try to create a nice composition on each one.
11. Cut the 9" x 12" black paper to 7" x 12".
12. Glue the three leaf print panels to the black paper as shown on at the top with the glue stick.

*You may wish to create 2 sheets of prints on 2 different color papers. Then use the best of both.*

*You can "accordion-fold" the panels to make the triptych free-standing.*

