

Session 3: Teabag Art



Recycling and reusing your dried teabags from the previous session to make mixed media art inspired by nature.

Materials

These are just suggestions and you won't need everything or you can substitute for what you have available.

- Dried tea bags
- Pencils, coloured pencils
- Fine line permanent black pens
- Coloured permanent paint pens or sharpies.
- Acrylic ink
- Watercolour paint



Link to demonstration video: <https://youtu.be/1WBhSO-OADc>

Examples of Teabag Art



Ruby Silvius created and exhibited a series of artworks on teabags during an art residency in Hyères, at France's Côte d'Azur region. Silvius took inspiration from scenes and objects encountered in her daily activities including historic architecture, the spring landscape and the natural beauty of the region . View examples of her work here <https://www.rubysilvius.com/teabag-art/363-days-of-tea-2015->

Techniques

You can use any dried out teabags from the previous session. If you don't have these you can prepare your teabags as follows;

- Steep teabag in hot water for 10+ minutes.
- Remove and press out all excess moisture onto paper or kitchen roll.
- Allow to dry in a warm place.

Once your teabags are completely dry make a small slit along the bottom edge and remove all the tea leaves as this will make it much easier for you to work on to.

Now your teabags are ready for some art!.



Draw on top with a pencil or a permanent fine line pen. These can be simple doodles inspired by your work in the previous sessions or whole mini scenes.



You can always start in pencil and then outline in a fine nib permanent pen . If you intend to add any wet media it is important to select a permanent pen so the lines don't bleed.



These can just be kept as simple outline doodle drawings if you wish.

Techniques continued

Colour can be added to your designs with watercolour paints, acrylic inks, water-brush pens, coloured pencils, Sharpies or even felt pens. It is a good idea to experiment to see what different effects you can achieve and how the media reacts with the absorbent teabag surface.



Watercolour paints can be used to create pleasing effects; paint a background colour before adding your drawing or dampen the teabag first and drop a couple of different colours on top - the colours will blend and merge themselves.



Acrylic inks are highly pigmented, staining vibrant colours. They will dry permanent and light-fast and are great for creating bold colourful designs.

Water-brush pens create similar effects to watercolour paints but are easier to control. You can use them to add colour to your design, work straight on to the teabag without prior drawing or add water to softly blend colours together.

Source images

If you don't wish to work from your doodles or photos you could work from some of the images here or search for illustrations or clip art on your chosen theme.



More Teabag Art examples

