

The Art in eARTh - Nature: Prints, Painting and Processes

Program Description

Join Beth Yashnyk, Port Discovery's Visual Art Specialist, for a 30-minute online, print-making workshop to explore the way in which natural elements can be used to create different forms of art. Prior to the program, take a stroll with your child/children in the great outdoors and collect leaves, flowers bark and rocks for use in your artwork. The day of the program, gather your materials, any kind of paint and paper you have available and find a space where you can get creative! Families will participate in experimental printmaking and painting projects, exploring the many qualities that make natural materials the perfect tools for creating works of art.

Gather Materials Prior to the Program

Take a walk outside. You can walk around your yard, your neighborhood or a local or state park. As you walk, look at the things you see around you. Notice the different colors, textures, sizes, and shapes of the natural materials you encounter. As you walk, pick up some of the things that you find interesting. Leaves, flowers, bark, sticks, feathers and even rocks can be used to create beautiful new works of art. Bring the items you collect to the online workshop!

Tips for collecting:

- In state and local parks, collection of large amounts of plant material is prohibited without a permit. Do not harvest whole plants.
- When collecting materials, look for leaves or bark that have already fallen off the plant. You can also look for plants with numerous leaves from which harvesting a leaf or two will not damage the plant.
- Choose dried flowers or flowers that are beginning to wilt over fresh flowers that provide nectar/food for important pollinator species.
- Be alert to two plants you should not collect: poison ivy and poison oak (pictured below). Though some people have no reaction to these plants, other people exhibit an allergic reaction causing an itchy rash on the skin. If you are unsure of what type of plant you are looking at, if it has "leaves of three, let it be."



Poison ivy vine on tree



Young Poison ivy



Poison Oak

Materials to have on-hand during the program:

- Red, yellow and blue paint (any kind that you have at home will work!)
- Paint brushes (if you don't have any, you can do the project without them, but they can be helpful)
- A container with water to clean your paint brushes in between colors
- Paper towels
- Paper on which to paint (any kind)
- Cardboard, plastic, or any other scrap material (we will use this as a palette to mix our paints!)
- Natural materials (leaves, grass, twigs, bark, dried flowers, rocks, feathers etc.)