

Texture Detective



C. Maxime, (French) after Jean-Baptiste Pillement, *Fantasy Flowers*, after 1778, etching on laid paper. Purchase: SOTA Print Fund, 2003

This artwork, *Fantasy Flowers*, is an example of art studying plant life in nature. Botanical, or plant art, can have many purposes. The work of some botanical artists may help scientists, or historians. Artists use artwork to understand the world around them. People use drawing, sculpting, and carving nature to understand the world around them and remember things from the past and record things in the present. As interesting as plants can be to look at, there are textures and details that can be overlooked. An easy way to create botanical artworks is to make texture rubbings. This activity is a great way to enjoy a nature walk outside!

For this project, you will need:

- Pencils or colored pencils
- Paper
- Tape
- Plants, grass, and leaves

Create Your Texture Rubbings:



Place your plants down on a flat area. Arrange them however you'd like. Press a piece of paper down on top of the plants. You can use tape to stick your paper in place. Use your pencils to lightly draw over the paper, you should see the texture of your plant coming through the paper.

Once you master texture rubbing, you can combine or collage your plants to make a botanical artwork. Compare the plants and your texture rubbings- you may be surprised!

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