



Make a Masterpiece

Hammered Flower Prints

What you need:

- Flower petals and leaves - Juicy petals and leaves with deep colors tend to work best. Flowering weeds like dandelions work well too.
- Natural fiber fabric or paper - A piece of an old light-colored cotton t-shirt works well. Light colored paper, fibrous construction paper or watercolor paper are good too.
- Something to hammer with - A hammer (of course), the end of a sturdy wooden spoon, rock, rubber mallet, etc.

What you do:

1. Gather your materials and lay them out on a solid surface that you don't mind hammering on like a wooden picnic table, tree stump, or sturdy tabletop. You may want to lay a towel down under your fabric or paper to dampen the noise.
2. Arrange your petals and leaves on one half of your fabric or paper.
3. Fold the fabric/paper in half on top of the petals, as if you were making a petal sandwich.
4. Hammer away! Use your hammering tool to pound the entire surface of your petal sandwich. You will smooch your petals and leaves and start to see them release their juice into the fabric/paper.
5. When everything is nicely smooshed, open up your fabric/paper and peel off the remnants of the petals to reveal the prints they left behind.
6. Show off and discuss your artwork. Which flowers or leaves created the best prints? Did the design turn out how you expected? Would you do anything differently next time?

