



Nature has long inspired artists. This example is from New England photographer Paul Caponigro who painstakingly collected thirty-two leaves covered in morning dew drops and carefully arranged them on a layer of thorny twigs to make this photograph. This piece is part of a series of still lifes that the artist created to explore the unexpected beauty that appears as things weather and decompose. The viewer is invited to pause and reflect on nature's subtle shapes, patterns and textures.

What textures and details do you see in this piece?

More works in the Currier's collection by Caponigro can be seen [here](#).

Paul Caponigro, *Autumn Dew Drops*, Cushing, ME, 2003, gelatin silver print, 12 3/8 in. x 8 7/8 in. The Henry Melville Fuller Acquisition Fund.

Activity: Wax Resist Nature Paintings - Use natural objects to create lovely crayon and watercolor paintings and to explore nature in a new way.

Materials:

- paper
- natural objects such as leaves and flowers
- crayons
- watercolor paint
- paint brush
- water cup

Directions:

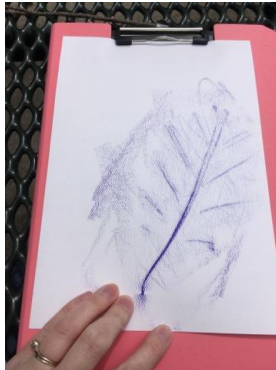
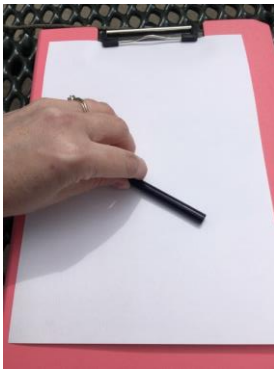
- Collect natural objects such as leaves and flowers
- Place them under your paper
- Rub the top of the paper with a crayon. The image will come out best if you hold the crayon on its side. Make sure to press firmly, the thicker the coat of crayon the better.
- Repeat with different natural objects and crayon colors until you fill your paper.
- Apply watercolor paint in a variety of colors over the drawing. The crayon will still show through.

Tips:

- Take a nature walk to collect your items, and if it is warm enough, make your art outside! I brought a clipboard and made my paintings at a local park.
- Try layering crayon colors on top of each other.

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