

Fabric: Sun Printing Botanicals

by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials

Dye-Na-Flow or **SetaColor**
Transparent fabric paint in a colour of your choice
Any smooth fabric, e.g. silk
hoop fabric
Tape to secure fabric
Brushes or sponges to apply paint
Leaves, feathers or any found materials
Synthrapol for washing the fabric



Goal

Make beautiful ghost-like images on fabric with simple found objects, leaves or paper cutouts. An easy, fun technique for kids and adults!

Students will learn a dramatic, rewarding technique for painting on fabric. Any age or experience level can make sun prints: the sun does all the work! Sun printing can be used to create fabric for fashion design, scarves, table runners, scarves, t-shirts and more.

Preparation

Watch the video [Sun Printing with Jacquard Dye Na Flow](#)

Procedure: Basic Sun Printing

1. Using a brush, thoroughly wet down the silk hoop fabric with clean water.
2. Apply **Jacquard Dye-Na-Flow** or **Pebeo Setacolor Transparent** onto the wet fabric.
3. While the fabric and paints are wet, arrange the paper cutouts, leaves and other items on the surface of the fabric. The closer contact the object has with the fabric, the sharper your image will be. You may have to weigh down some objects so that they don't blow away. However, do not place plastic or glass on top as it will trap moisture and interrupt the solar reaction.
4. Set the fabric in the sun. (Depending upon the size of your fabric you may want to lay the fabric out in the sun before placing your objects on it. Just be careful not to let the fabric dry.)
5. Leave the fabric out in the sun with the objects on it for an hour or more. Remove the objects. You will see a lighter image in the shape of the object.
6. Heat set the fabric according to the instructions.
7. Wash in cool water with **Synthrapol** and rinse.

