

COLOURWHEEL WEEK

Artwork created with grains, beans, pulses, seeds and pebbles



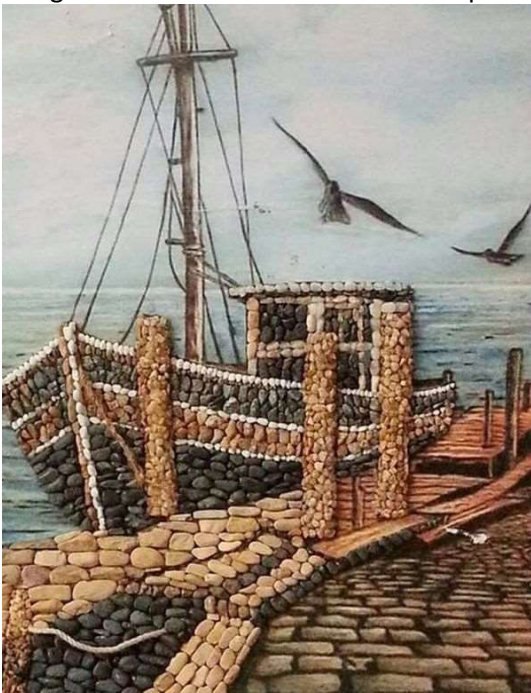
This week's lesson is all about being inventive with natural objects to create a mosaic or collage. A mosaic doesn't need expensive tiles, glass and cutters, items that we have in our kitchen cupboards and garden sheds can achieve spectacular results.

For this lesson raid your kitchen and gardens. Select a range of items and try to vary the colours and sizes of what you select. Use empty egg boxes to separate your items.

A range of items can be used such as: lentils in a range of colours, coffee beans, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, small pieces of gravel from the garden, beads, interesting seeds, rice, pebbles etc.

What surface?

Anything can be used from strong card, wood, an old cork place mat and canvas to even an old tile. Do consider that if heavier objects are going to be used to collage, think about using card or even a piece of wood. Coloured card can be a good basis to get rid of that scary white surface. If you have paint to hand, you may wish to paint the background first with a flat colour or even block in different areas of your image with a good base colour in different sections. If you look at the image below left, paint has been used to paint in the sky and sea, and the path has been collaged with paper. The design of the boat and the wall have then been drawn in and collaged with pebbles, dried beans, and seeds. In the bird image on the right, a piece of wood has been painted with white paint before the design has been drawn on to the dried paint and then collaged with small pebbles and gravel.



Designing

You can be as adventurous or as simple in your design as you wish. Do take a look at a range of work from other artists on the inspiration page at the end of these notes for ideas. Images which are copyright free can be obtained from sites such as Pixabay. If you're unsure of how to start, think about beginning simple – designs such as Rangoli patterns or using Aboriginal art as inspiration is a good starting point. Still life flowers or animals is a good intermediate step and for those feeling like a challenge, you could take on a landscape. If choosing a landscape, use the colours and shapes of your objects to help to describe different elements of the landscape such as fields, trees, foliage etc. Do start small until you get to grips with the process.

Before you commit to your surface, make a rough draft of your design first so you have an idea of composition. Consider annotating your design with where you will place certain objects.

Beginning the design



Copyrighted images

Start by drawing out your design on your chosen surface. Use a strong line as it will be covered by your items. If you are using a coloured surface, you may want to use chalk so that your lines show. Be aware of scale – anything too small may be tricky; anything too large may take a lifetime to complete! Bear in mind the items you will be using to collage.

Once you have your design drawn out, you can start to add your chosen textures. Depending on the surface you have chosen to work on will depend on the type of glue you may need to use. If you're working on card or heavy paper, PVA glue will be fine; if working on wood you may want to use woodglue or even super glue.

Take each section at a time as you don't want to add glue everywhere and then let it dry out. Place your glue in the section where you're working and then begin to add your beans/grains/pulses/stones etc. For more fiddly parts, you may wish to use a pair of tweezers to place your objects. Allow the grains, beans, pulse etc to settle a moment or two and then gently press them into the surface.

Do think about the direction that you are placing your objects – this will really help to describe the subject.

Once your design is finished and dried, you may want to gently coat it with a varnish or better still a spray varnish if you have it to hand. Do be careful with this if you've worked on a surface such as card.

Inspiration Board: a range of copyrighted artists' work for inspiration only and not to be copied directly

