

No-Blender Pulp Painting

“Paint” with a pulp created from torn tissue paper and water

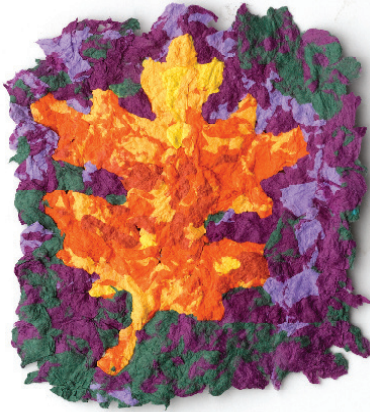
Felting is an ancient fiber craft that transforms the fibers of wool (or wool yarn) into a dense cloth by bonding and shrinking the fibers together with heat, agitation and moisture. In Korea, a traditional papermaking technique called “Joomchi” uses a similar process with rice paper. Water and agitation cause the paper fibers to shrink and bond with one another, which can then be sculpted and formed into thick, textural artwork and surfaces. In the western art world, “Pulp Painting” is a paper art technique that involves the process of creating pulp, combining it with an adhesive and reforming it into a sheet of paper.

This project is a simple, tidy way to create the look of pulp painting without the mess of a blender or even the use of adhesive. Non-bleeding tissue paper is combined with water and agitated (torn) so that the paper fibers separate and make a rough pulp. Pressing the paper onto an absorbent (canvas) surface causes the fibers to re-bond with one another and, when dry, form a thicker, stronger paper.

GRADES K-12 Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Pulp paintings will need to be created on a smooth, absorbant surface such as unprimed canvas, denim or linen. For best results, secure the fabric temporarily to a piece of scrap corrugate card board with staples or masking tape. This will make it easy to move the artwork, protect table surfaces from the dampness and keep the fabric from buckling.



Process

1. Lightly sketch a design for the pulp painting onto the fabric surface.
2. Tear tissue paper into very small pieces and place in a small bowl. Use multiple bowls to work with a few colors at a time. Colors may also be combined.
3. Add just enough water to wet the paper. Mix water and paper with fingers, tearing and pressing pieces together to form small, pulpy clumps.
4. Press tissue paper pulp onto the canvas surface to make the “painting.”

Hints for working with tissue paper pulp:

- Work one area of the painting at a time so that pieces of pulp overlap one another
- Bloth the paper pulp frequently with a paper towel, pressing down to remove excess water.
- Paintings do not need to be solid. Consider open areas and negative space.
- Use light and dark tones of a color together to create a shaded look.



Materials (required)

[Blick Art Tissue](#), 20 color assortment (11308-1007), 100-sheet package 12" x 18"; share one package across class

[Fredrix Style 568 Medium Weight Canvas](#), unprimed (07303-1352), 52" x 3Yd roll; cut to 8" x 10" pieces for 67 per roll

[Elmer's Glue-All](#), 4-oz bottles (23810-1004); share four across classroom

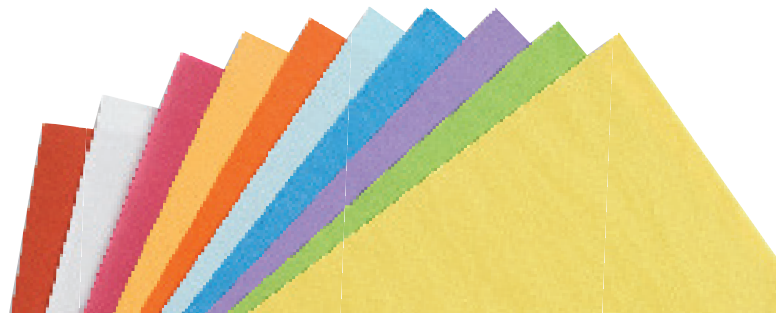
[Bowls for water](#)

[Paper Towels](#)

Optional Materials

[Blick Artists' Acrylic Mediums](#), Gloss (00623-1036) or Matte (00623-1046)

[Crescent Melton Mounting Boards](#), 28" x 44" Black (13003-2102)





5. As the tissue pulp dries, the fibers will be interlocked and re-bonded to one another to form a solid piece. HOWEVER, once a section is dry, it can't be re-bonded. Therefore, if the painting is to be created in multiple sessions, a small amount of glue will be necessary in order for the wet pulp to bond to the dry. Place a dab of glue on the dry area and directly place the wet pulp into the glue.
6. Allow the pulp paintings to dry thoroughly.
7. Remove the canvas from the back of the pulp painting. The canvas may be reused.
8. To add strength and durability, coat the back side of the painting with white glue and allow to dry. The front side may be left as is or finished with a clear gloss or matte acrylic medium.

Options

- More advanced students may find the palette of the tissue paper colors to be limiting. Blick Studio Markers can be used to tint the tissue paper to create different colors and patterns. Allow the ink to dry thoroughly on the tissue paper before wetting it.
- Add glitter, Jacquard Pearl-Ex Pigments (27103-1129) or other mix-ins to the paper pulp while it is wet for special effects.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



Step 1: Lightly sketch a design on canvas.



Step 2: Tear tissue paper into small pieces, mixing with water.



Step 3: Form a small clump of pulp and press into the canvas.

