

# Explore Living Colors: The Ecology in Book Arts

## SDBA Demo with Jie Tian

### Wednesday, December 9, 2020; 10:00 am PST

In this fun and interactive demo, we will explore the colors, textures, and structures of leaves and flowers on paper and thread. We will gather plant materials from our patio, garden, and local environments. Our tools will be simple: Our hands, a hammer, a rock, or a rolling pin. Come join the workshop, improvise spontaneous creativity, and enjoy your own rhythm and heart-beat—as we press, rub, pound and create with plants. We will be able to recycle leaves and flowers so they biodegrade & use what we make as inspirations for bookmarks, cards, collages, books and book binding.

## Materials & Tools List

### 1. Plants:

- Observe and gather leaves, flowers, and stems from your surroundings: Your patio pots, garden, local parks, parking lots, sidewalks, and etc.
- Also consider weeds, wild and/or native plants.
- Plants that possess herbal, medicinal, or spiritual associations that you'd like to explore.
- Choose plants that attract your eye, or that you like to touch or smell.
- Notice their textures and see if they are easy to bruise/impart color.
- Put newly harvested plant materials in a plastic bag in a frig can help prolong their freshness.
- What about light/color fastness? Plants that contain tannic acid retain colors well and those that do not, fade and change. What if we abandon our fear of fugitive colors and enjoy transmutations in time?
- Be careful of plants that you may be sensitive or allergic to & avoid them.

**Suggestions:** Gather at least three or four varieties so you can experiment with different colors, textures, and structures.

- 1) Geraniums, hibiscus, roses. Beets, strawberries, blue berries, grapes (dark colored).
- 2) Garden sage, California native sage (black, purple, Cleveland), hummingbird sage, mint.
- 3) Calendula, coreopsis, black-eyed Susan, sundrops, monkeyflower.
- 4) Apple, pear, fig, maple, Western redbud, black walnut, sumac, eucalyptus, oak, ginkgo.
- 5) Or what is in season in your locality.

2. **Paper:** 100% cotton (for example, Strathmore Ult. White Wove, 24lb), watercolor, printmaking, mix media, or other paper that absorbs wetness reasonably well. Any size you'd like.

3. **Thread:** Linen, cotton, or wool (white or cream so they can be colored). Any length. Any thickness. The thicker and longer the thread, the more plant materials will be needed.

### 4. Tools:

- 1) A small hammer, a rock/pebble, a rolling pin, or any other tool that you'd like to beat/pound/direct print plant materials.
- 2) A pad or mat to pound/beat materials on. Recycled cardboard works.
- 3) Paper towel to press plant materials under and to dry/clean up.
- 4) A bowl with water & a towel to wash away color or plant materials on your hands.

Optional:

- A covered brick to press on freshly printed objects.
- A pair of thin plastic gloves, if you'd like to keep your hands clean and free of color.
- A mask if you think you are sensitive/allergic to pollen, powder, dust, or certain smells.
- A pencil to record your choices