

Sun Painting

All Ages

This is just magic, and the results are beautiful! We made a pair of napkins, but you can make a t-shirt, pillowcase, tea towel, and more.

How does sun painting work? Follow the steps listed below and the sun will do the rest. The items you place on the wet paint keep the fabric beneath them wet. The sun dries the exposed painted fabric. The quickly drying fabric draws or wicks the water and much of paint from under the items leaving a print behind.

Supplies:

- * Sunny day
- * Acrylic paints, bright colours are better than pastels
- * Paint brushes sized to suit your project
- * Cotton fabric item - with out texture or nap
- * Tarp or plastic sheet
- * Access to water and a spray bottle of water
- * Flat, natural items, leaves, feathers, flat flowers or flower petals



Procedures:

1. Go hunting for flat, natural objects. Leaves are great. Simple flowers like daisies can work where roses will not. The rose petals would work. If the object is flat and makes an interesting shadow it will work.
2. Thoroughly wet fabric under the hose or faucet. Squeeze out excess water so the fabric is very wet, but not dripping.
3. Lay the fabric out flat on the tarp or plastic sheet (outside in a sunny spot) with the side you want to decorate facing up.
4. Thin the acrylic paint with water, 1 part paint to 1 part water. No need to measure this carefully. Just mix in a bit of water until the paint is very watery.



5. Paint the entire surface of the fabric.
6. Spray 2 or 3 coats of water over the surface using the spray bottle.
7. Arrange the natural objects on the fabric with the flattest side down. Gently press them onto the wet surface so they stick in place. Small rocks or pebbles may help to hold them in place if it is breezy.
8. Leave your fabric in the sun for several hours.
9. When the fabric is dry, carefully remove the items to reveal your beautiful prints.

Tips: Men's cotton hankies often come in a 6 pack. A hankie makes a great canvas for custom designed table napkins.

Look for opaque, water-resistant objects to use. Plastic letters or numbers work well. Objects with well-defined margins that block the sunlight are best.

