

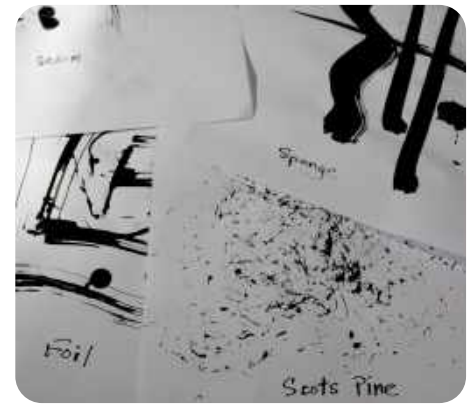
ACTIVITY GUIDE

- EXPRESSIVE NATURAL BRUSHES



Connecting creatively to the
landscape of the Wye Valley AONB and Forest of Dean

EXPRESSIVE NATURAL BRUSHES



Most artists have a variety of paint brushes to use in their work as it enables them to make different marks for different subject matter. Have fun creating your own bespoke brushes using natural forms to create expressive and experimental marks! The brush ends can be substituted with feathers, dried teasel, natural sponges, twigs, leaves and so on. All of these new alternative brushes will give you some really unusual effects

Activity rating - Suitable for everyone.

Preparation time

15 - 30 minutes to gather objects that can be used for the tip of the brush. This could be partly incorporated into the practical activity by taking a walk into the garden.

Time required for activity

30 minutes.

Shopping list

- o Garden sticks or canes or anything similar to become your paintbrush handles.
- o Natural brush alternatives: feathers, teasel or similar, pine leaves, natural sponge, twigs etc.
- o Household items: tinsel, bubble wrap, string, scrunched paper, pipe cleaner.
- o Paper.
- o Black ink or black paint (not too thick).
- o String.
- o Scissors.
- o Masking tape.

Step by step instructions

1. Cover the table with a cloth to protect it.
2. Take your stick and attach your new brush tip to the end with either string or masking tape. It doesn't need to look neat so don't worry about aesthetics!
3. Once you have made several different paintbrushes, dip them into your ink and experiment with the expressive marks the participants are capable of making.
4. You may wish to use a twig dipped in ink as a pencil to make more traditional looking line drawings alongside your new brush marks.

Top Tip!

- If you don't have any ink, try using some black paint which has been slightly thinned with water to make it flow easier.