

Embracing Earth's Elements

Fig.1 Nils Udo



When you return after summer, we will begin Skills Two. In this unit you will be introduced to the world of natural colour and in this project, you will also be expected to make considerate and sustainable material choices whilst putting your skills into practice. During summer break your task is to build a personal connection with the natural world and **Embrace Earth's Elements.**

The natural world is abundant with pattern, colour, form and texture; organic materials and landscapes have offered continual inspiration for textile designers, artists and makers for many years. How often do you stop to notice the rich and varied array of colour in the natural elements that surround you? Or the unexpected organic patterns that form in nature's lands

Colour

Natural colour doesn't have to be dull, muted or boring. It can be bright, vivid and beautiful.

Pattern

Natural patterns can include symmetries, trees, spirals, meanders, waves, foams, tessellations and cracks. Bold patterns can form when you look out over the horizon or out of a plane at an ariel view of farming fields. Or you might find intricate patterns on the surface of leaves, shells, etc.

Task One

Begin by gathering two sets of primary research photographs that focus on the following;

1. Colour in nature
2. Pattern in nature

You do not need to have a defined theme; you should gather lots of different images and generate a bank of photographs that are varied. This exercise is about getting you to open up your eyes to nature.

Challenge yourself by taking yourself to new landscapes or by visiting archives or museums to look at natural objects for inspiration. For example: The Shell Grotto in Margate or Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Task Two

From your research focusing on colour please select your favourite three photographs. For each photograph you need to put together a mood board where you are using different hand-based methods to extract the colour palette from the photograph e.g. Painted palette, collaged papers, thread wraps,.

You cannot use digital tools to translate the colour. The focus of this exercise is on developing your skills in observational colour.

Remember it is also important to consider the texture in colour. For example; are you looking at a rock pool, how could you translate the quality of water through colour? How can you translate translucency through colour?

Task Three

From your research focusing on **pattern** please select your favourite **three** photographs. For each photograph you must make a series of ten drawings that extract the pattern from the image.

Make sure you vary your drawings, for example try bold large-scale mark making then small intricate line drawing. Capture the texture and surface qualities by working with textured papers and materials, painting with different brushes or using found objects such as sticks as brushes.

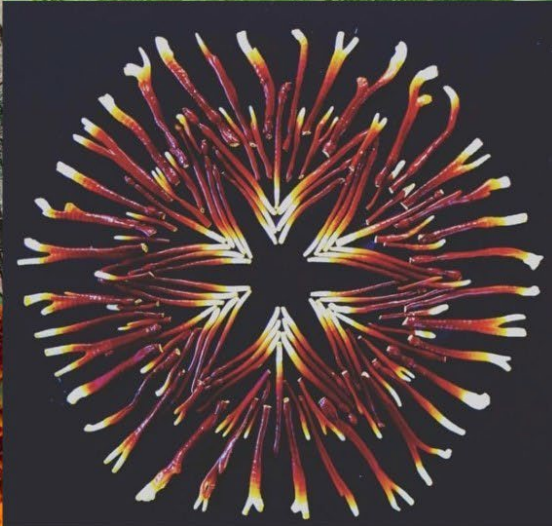
Drawing doesn't have to be 2D or using a traditional pen and paper, drawing can be 3D work, paper manipulations, relief work, collage etc.

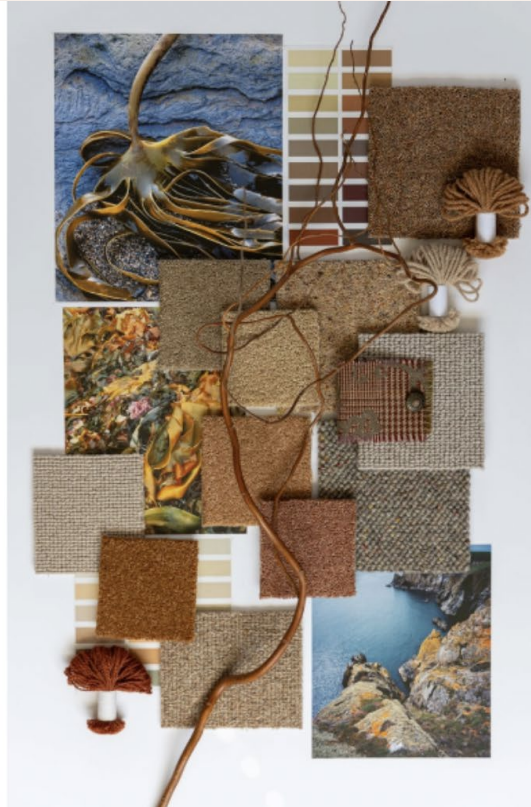
You cannot use digital tools to draw with.

Task Four

Please find three examples of textile designers or artists who have a plant-based practice – that work closely with or are deeply inspired by nature.

Inspiration





Have a happy and creative summer holiday!