

## Monotype with Leaves and Paper Stencils



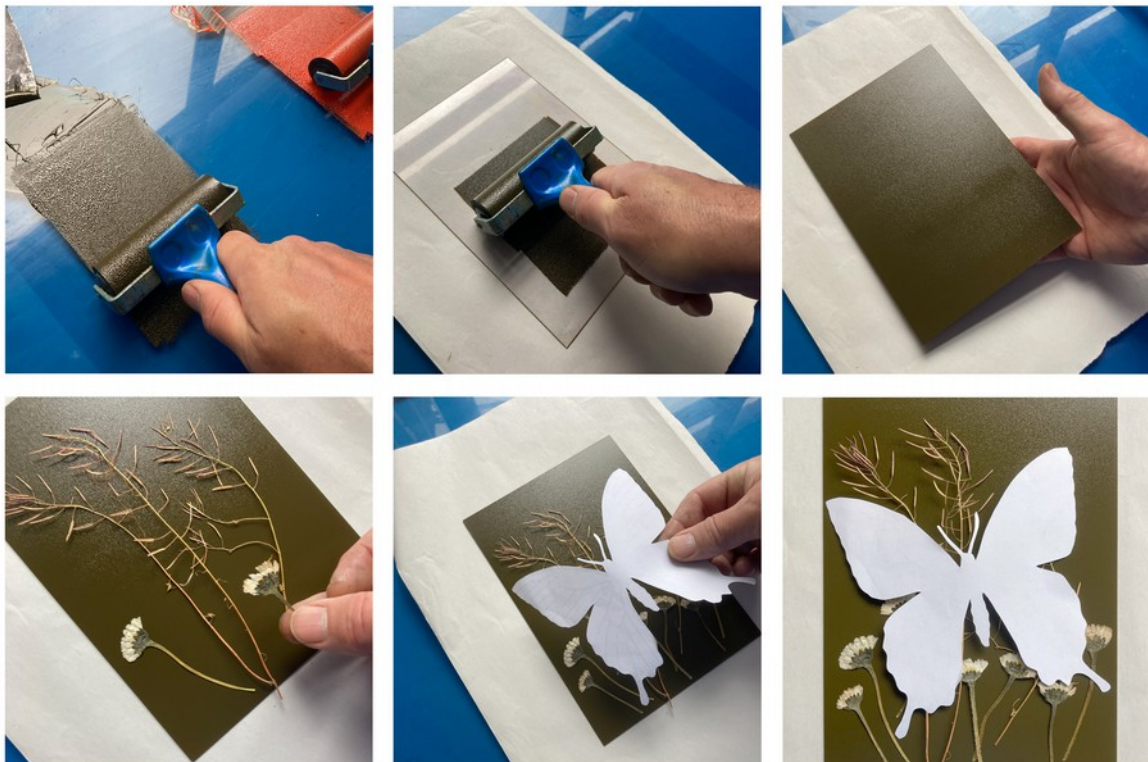
In this process of using **paper stencils** or organic material such as **leaves or plants**, multiple versions of the image are produced from the same inking. Often it is the second or third prints that are the most interesting. For best results use **pressed leaves** or flowers and avoid organic material that are too fresh as juice from the plant may bleed into the print.

*What you will need:*



- Monotype plates x 2 (clear acrylic plates)
- Caligo Safewash Relief Printing Inks
- Rollers x 2 and glass
- Pressed flowers leaves or feathers
- Stencils or shapes cut from paper
- Japanese paper (Kozo) or light weight printer paper
- Wooden spoon
- Newsprint

Preparation:



1. Roll out 2 colours on the glass. Use a **generous** amount of ink.
2. Evenly cover 1 of the monotype plates with ink.
3. Place the inked plate on top of a clean sheet of newsprint.
4. Carefully arrange the leaves, stencils or a combination of both on top of the inked plate.

Print 1:



1. Lay the paper over the top of the inked plate, then a sheet of newsprint to cover this.
2. Carefully press the back of the print with your hands to secure the paper to the plate. Take care **not to move or disturb** the leaves or stencils beneath the paper.
3. Use hand pressure to press the back of the print with consistent pressure.



4. Remove the newsprint and **press with your thumb** around the plant form.
5. Gently peel back the paper to reveal the first print.
6. Keeping stencil and plant form in place take another print using scrap paper to remove more of the ink from the plate around the objects.

Print 2:



1. Take the second monotype plate and roll it with another colour.
2. Set the plate from print 1 and the newly rolled plate **side by side**.
3. Carefully remove the plant forms and stencil from the first plate and place them **inky side up** on top of the newly inked plate.
4. Lay the paper over the top of the plate, then a sheet of newsprint to cover this.
5. Print as above with hand pressure or wooden spoon.

Print 3:



1. Take the first printed monotype plate and hold to the light. Observe how the printing process has left an **impression of the leaves** or stencils in the ink.
2. This plate may now be printed as above.
3. Also if print 2 was printed with an inked background then the leaves or stencils will now carry another colour on the reverse side. These leaves or stencils may therefore be arranged

- on top of the plate ready for printing.
4. Lay the paper over the top of the plate, then a sheet of newsprint to cover this.
  5. Print with hand pressure or wooden spoon.

Further prints:



Further prints can be made from the new plate or from the plant form or stencil.

*Notes on materials:*

- Use Caligo Safewash Relief printing inks. These inks are high quality and **soap/water washable**.
- Kozo paper is a light weight **Japanese paper made for hand printing**. In general terms it is much easier to print by hand onto the lightest weight paper available.

### Cardiff Print Workshop

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