

## ITEMS TO EXPERIMENT WITH AT HOME

WANT IDEAS TO TRY AT HOME? SOMETIMES THE MATERIAL OR MEDIA WE USE ENCOURAGES OUR CREATIVITY AND TAKES US FOR A JOURNEY. I MEAN, EVER PICK UP A PEN THAT WRITES SO SMOOTHLY YOU JUST WANT TO WRITE EVERYTHING WITH IT? OR THAT IT JUST FITS NICELY IN YOUR HAND WHEN YOU USE IT? THAT'S THE ENJOYMENT YOU SHOULD FEEL FROM YOUR MEDIA OF CHOICE. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD ALSO CHALLENGE OURSELVES AND STRETCH AWAY FROM WHAT IS COMFORTABLE EVERY SO OFTEN. OUR CREATIVITY AND EXCITEMENT (OR SOMETIMES MISTAKES) OF FUN CAN PRODUCE SOME SURPRISING AND AMAZING RESULTS. WE MAY NEED TO EXPERIMENT AND TRY A FEW OUT BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHAT WORKS BEST FOR US. SO LET'S GET PLAYING!

### OFFICE ITEMS

OFFICE ITEMS NORMALLY INCLUDE PENS, PENCILS, HIGHLIGHTERS...BUT WHAT ABOUT PAPERCLIPS? STICKY NOTES? STAPLERS AND STAPLES? WHAT OTHER OFFICE ITEMS CAN YOU TEST OUT?

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

THERE ARE TONS OF ITEMS HERE RANGING FROM DESIGNS CUT FROM PRODUCT PACKAGING, EPHEMERA, OLD BOOK PAGES, PIECES OF BROKEN JEWELRY, STRANDS OF YARN OR SCRAPS OF FABRIC, RIBBON, FOOD COLORING, OR GLUE YOU NAME IT. AS LONG AS IT IS CLEAN AND THE 2.5" X 3.5" SIZE, IT WILL BE TRADABLE. SOME OF THESE THESE THAT YOU MAKE YOU SHOULD KEEP AS A REFERENCE FOR YOURSELF. JUST BECAUSE IT DOESN'T LOOK GREAT NOW, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK TO THAT ITEM TO TRY AGAIN AFTER YOU UNDERSTAND SOME TECHNIQUES OR MORE ABOUT YOUR OWN LIKES AND DISLIKES IN ART.

### OUTDOOR ITEMS

THIS ONE YOU WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHICH PLANTS YOU ARE PICKING THAT THEY AREN'T DANGEROUS AND DON'T PICK TOO MUCH OF ANYTHING OR TOO MANY THINGS AT ONCE. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE NATURE CAN EASILY RECOVER ITSELF SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY ITS BEAUTY. THESE ITEMS CAN INCLUDE THE BASICS OF WHAT YOU CAN SEE SUCH AS FLOWERS, LEAVES, OR STICKS. WITH MORE IN DEPTH OPTIONS SUCH AS DYES AND PIGMENTS THAT WE, AS OUR CURRENT OR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, USE IN OUR FOODS AND FABRICS. THIS COULD INCLUDE CHARCOAL OR STONE MATTER AS PIGMENTS OR EVEN WILD ONION SKINS FOR DYES. EXPLORE AND HAVE FUN!

### GROCERY ITEMS

THOUGH FOOD IS NOT REALLY A GREAT OPTION AS MOLD AND BACTERIA ARE NOT WELCOMED IN TRADES...THEIR WRAPPERS (IF CLEAN) MAY BE A FUN ADDITION TO ADD TO YOUR ART! THERE ARE ALSO CERTAIN FRUITS AND VEGGIES THAT CAN CREATE DYES TO EXPERIMENT WITH (SUCH AS WITH BEETS WILL GIVE A BEAUTIFUL RED COLOR). SEE WHAT ELSE YOU CAN USE FROM THE GROCERY STORE THAT DOESN'T GO BAD!

AS YOU CAN SEE THERE ARE SO MANY ITEMS YOU CAN TRY! THE OPTIONS AND COMBINATIONS ARE LIMITLESS. THE BEST WAY TO TACKLE THIS IS TO PICK A THEME TO FOCUS ON SO THAT THE VARIATION YOU ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH CAN STAND OUT. PICK SOMETHING SIMPLE YOU LOVE TO DRAW SUCH AS A LEAF, A HEART, OR A SUN SHAPE. USE VARIATIONS OF MEDIA, TECHNIQUE, MATERIALS ETC AND COLLECT THEM IN A BINDER TO SEE WHAT EFFECTS AND FEELINGS ARE CREATED FROM YOUR CHOICE OF COMBINATIONS. YOU'LL FIND SURPRISES YOU LOVE!