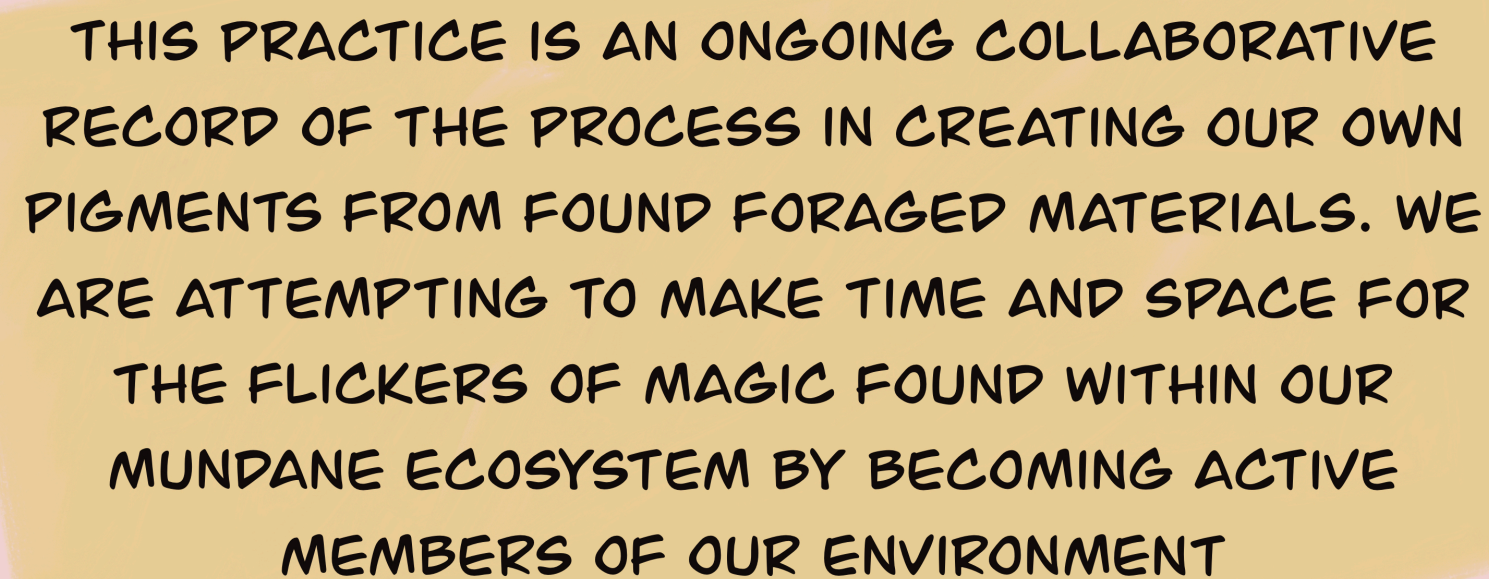


SURROUNDING

PIGMENTS

REBECCA BELEUTZ

& SHAN MOROZ;



THIS PRACTICE IS AN ONGOING COLLABORATIVE RECORD OF THE PROCESS IN CREATING OUR OWN PIGMENTS FROM FOUND FORAGED MATERIALS. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE TIME AND SPACE FOR THE FLICKERS OF MAGIC FOUND WITHIN OUR MUNDANE ECOSYSTEM BY BECOMING ACTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

# FORAGING RULES

- guide book
- cautious
- pls be respectful

- Be cautious of plants/pigment materials + the land you are interacting with (Ahh Toxins!)
  - Be mindful - practice
  - pls be safe Hazards!!

## HARVEST RESPONSIBLY!

- Take only what you need, never take from the first patch of plants you stumble across (no more than 5% from one site spot)
- This project is very intuitive based; collecting sample sizes vs. batch sizes
- Search for plants/materials that are considered weeds/Invasive (if safe to do so)
- In season

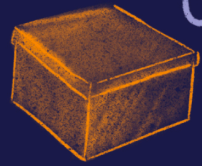


# Foraging Kit ✨

You can spend as much, or as little on your supplies.  
Here are the basics!



Scissors  
(to cut, forage)



Little boxes or  
Containers  
(to sort specimen)



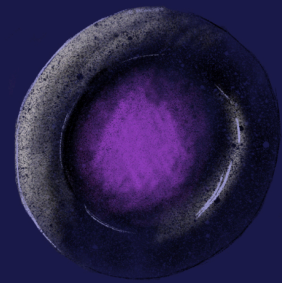
Bag or  
Basket  
(to carry all  
your treasures)



Gloves  
(to handle  
foraged items)

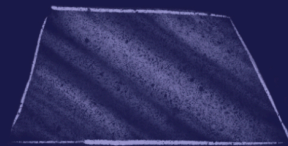
✨ Remember to be gentle and respectful ✨

# Paint Making supplies



Mortar & Pestle  
(for breaking down  
pigment into powder)

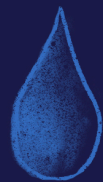
Crushed  
pigment



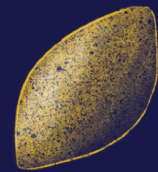
Glass palette



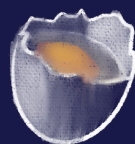
Borax



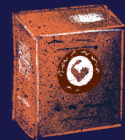
Water ✨



lemon ✨  
juice

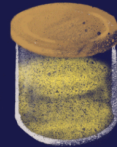


egg ✨  
whites



baking  
soda ✨

Binder



Additives ✨

# MAKING PAINT

- Gather your foraged pigments and grind them into a fine powder with a mortar and pestle.
- Combine your pigment and binder on a glass palette. To help break down any remaining chunks add sprinkles of Borax. Continue mixing with palette knife and adding binder and/or Borax until at desired consistency.

- When using paint, you can also experiment with additives to change the colour (PH) and texture.
- ✨ Additives: lemon juice, water, baking soda, eggwhites etc...



# BINDER & ADDITIVES

*-suspension component that physically holds multiple components together*

→ to make paint you need: Pigment finely ground, Water, Additives, + Binder!

How to make Binder → Milk Paint (easy access) (casein)

**RATIO:** 1 quart milk, 1 lemon, 4 table spoons of Pigment

## NEED:

- stove
- pot
- skim milk
- lemon/vinegar
- bowl
- cheese cloth

↳ batch size

↳ First impressions = Sample size

## STEPS:

- 1 Bring milk + lemon to a boil. Then reduce to simmer
- 2 Leave simmering until curds stop forming
- 3 Pour pot into bowl that's lined w/ cheese cloth
- 4 Squeeze out all of the liquid from chunks using cheese cloth as a filter
- 5 Liquid = Binder

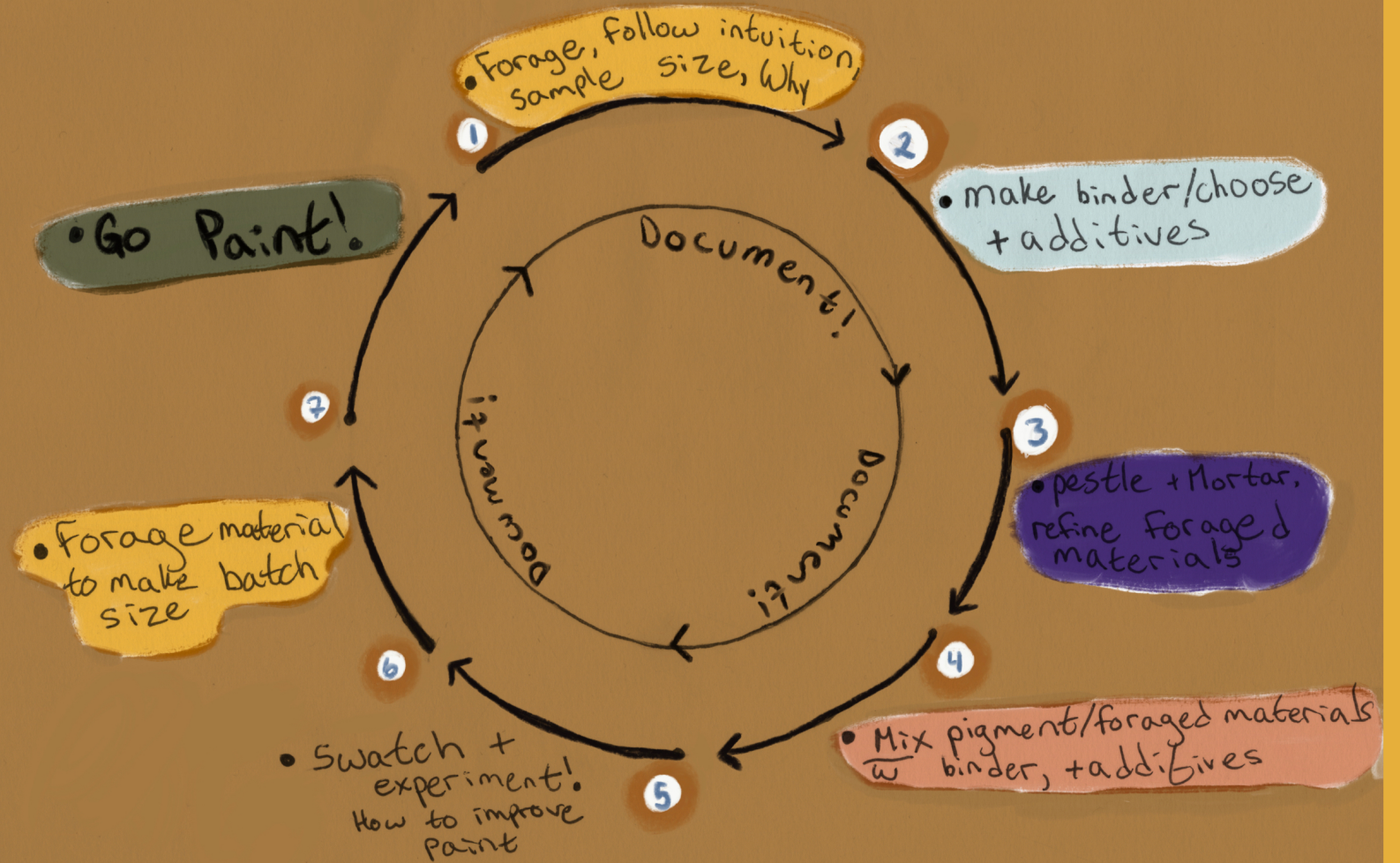
## OTHER Types of Binders

- Egg tempera - egg yolk → effect drying (less yellow)
- Egg whites
- Gum Arabic (honey) → watercolour (water soluble)
- walnut oil, linseed oil, poppy oil → oil paint
- Methyl Cellulose

## Additives - that Have Been Explored

- Borax
  - house hold cleaner
  - Breaks Down pigment + makes paint smoother
  - incorporate
- water
  - layers!
  - Dilutes
- Egg whites
  - helps w/ adhesion
- Lemon / vinegar
  - dilute
  - acid; ph shift effects colour
- Baking Soda
  - texture (sand)
  - base; ph shift effects colour

# CYCLE OF STEPS



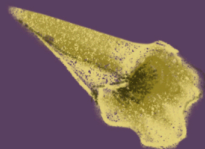


# African Marigold

colour name: "Dijon"

## First Impressions

- lovely
- bright
- sunshine

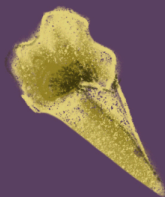
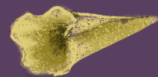


These two were enough to make some pigment.



This was found at the University of Guelph near the gardens by the University Center & bus circle. This marigold was sitting on a garbage can. It was like it was waiting, just for ME! Be Mindful & Respectful. If possible, take fallen or broken flowers. (you will be grinding them down anyways)

Was hoping for a vibrant yellow & that is what we got!



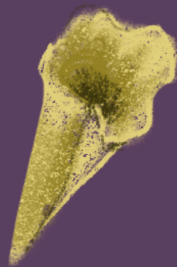
Can find more in University of Guelph Gardens.

"Dijon"



African Marigold  
*Tagetes erecta*

- use mortar + pestle to break down petals (pigment)
- move pigment to glass palette
- sprinkle on a pinch of Borax
- mix broken down petals with binder in a bit at a time until at desired consistency
- if it is still very clumpy, add more Borax to help break down the pigment more



egg whites created a nice shine

baking soda was most interesting

thicker and darker



Additives

"Dijon"  
African Marigold  
*Tagetes Erecta*





# DIRT ETCETERA FROM CAR MAT

Colour name → "Rubber Car Mat Sludge"

Why?

- wanted to think about foraging in a more contemporary way. At first, when I was thinking about looking for an unconventional material I thought about the yellow paint used for the poles in city buses. To satisfy this compulsion + to not damage city property,

I thought about potential pigments from mode of transportation like: My Bike, headphones, my car etc. → Bag, purse; mode to storage <sup>mission 161</sup> <sub>mission 161</sub>

- Using all the dirt and miscellaneous crumbs that fall onto the rubber mats in my car tell a story of the mundane

## First Impressions...

- rough + diverse texture
- focus on texture
- Green-Brown
- Transparent
- Grainy

V1000 m.



→ pestle & Mortar

- Binder & Borra
- not fine enough, very textured
- Sifter would help
- to get fine pigment from sand, dust, stone ect.
  - pestle & Mortar, sift, pestle & Mortar, sift, in clear cup and equal parts water and pigment mix!, Then extract liquid with a dropper, Spread liquid on baking sheet let in dry, mortar & pestle
  - <sup>now</sup> ready to be incorporated w binder + additives
  - mostly the additives diluted +/or added chocky texture with white hue
  - egg whites thickened texture





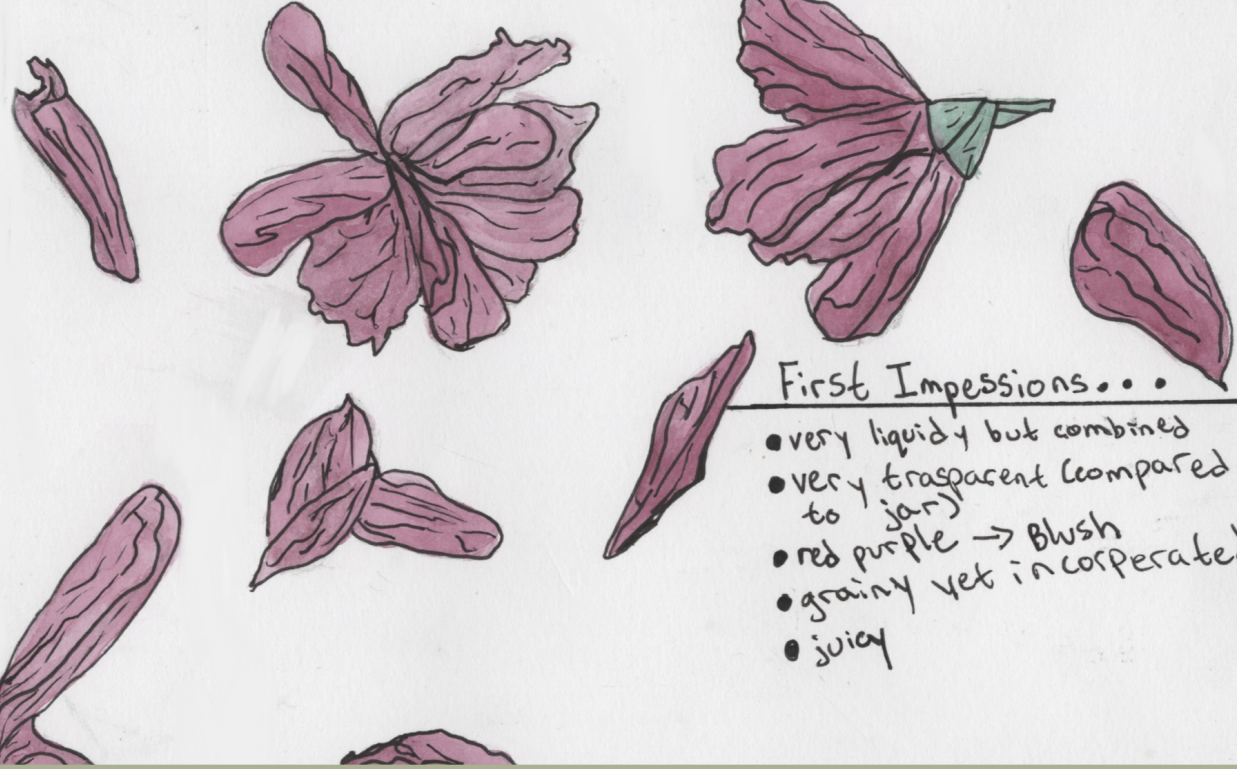
# WINNIPEG PARKS SHRUB ROSE PETALS

colour name → "Drink the Kool-Aid"

- named cuz additive + colour opened new doors + got us excited

Why?

- Fallen petals
- Stand out, vibrant against the fall backdrop
- walking past



## First Impressions...

- very liquidy but combined to jar
- very transparent compared to jar
- red purple → Blush
- grainy yet incorporated
- juicy

Rose "Winnipeg Parks"  
Winnipeg Parks Shrub  
Rose petals.

"Drink the Kool-Aid"



pestle & Mortar

- Binder & Borrox
- Sift! - should refine the texture
- Organic pigment (flowers) are very susceptible to changing the colour by messing with the ph of the paint

→ this paint was the best example of this

- Baking soda - Base → made pigment more yellow/brown
- lemon juice - Acid → made pigment more bright pink (like the colour of the petals)

(There are other household items that could work)





# Lavender Incense Ash

Other types of ash would make easy pigment as well.  
(chalk has a similar consistency)

I have been collecting incense ash with no particular goal in mind.



Finally I am making use of it ♡



already in dust, it does not need to be put through the muller and pestle.

lavender incense ash



"Cleansing"

colour name: "Cleansing"

- thick, opaque, even application
- dries quickly, could use more binder for a thinner paint (layering versatility)
- only consistency changed in additive tests, mostly causing transparency

The ash was very easy to mix with the binder. It has a very smooth application. It seems the best and most even application swatch is the one without additives.

lemon juice



baking soda



water



egg whites



no additives



"Cleansing" lavender incense ash



# SUNBURST HONEY LOCUST LEAVES

Colour name → "Pumpkin Pie Filling"

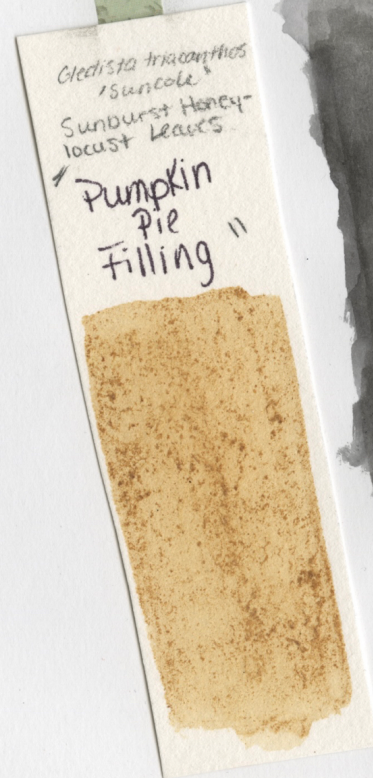
## Why?

- a university of Guelph fall staple... propaganda
- plentiful, going to waste

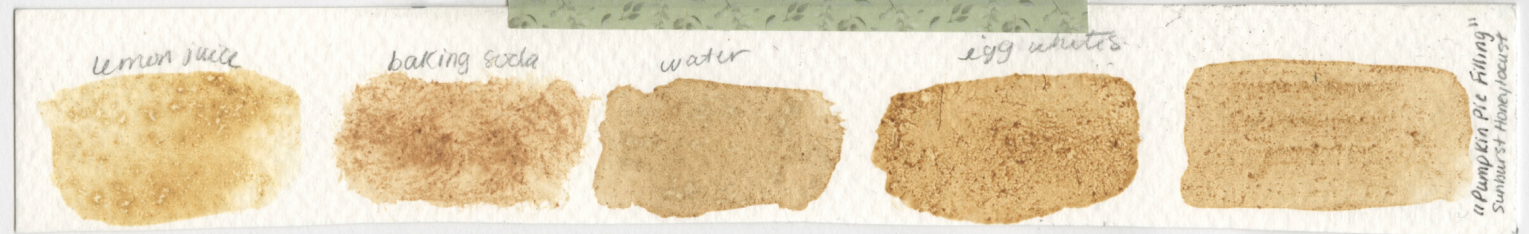


## First Impressions...

- Chunky peanut butter
- Sun
- Yellow Ochre
- more orange



- pestel and Mortar pigment, mix in binder + borax → pestel
- very absorbent pigment
- chunky → refined pigment more with sifter → submerge in water to dissolve and let water dry use powder
- Borax additive might of shifted colour from yellow ochre to more orange
- lemon juice more yellow
- Egg whites more opaque and orange







# FLUORESCENT BLUE ACRYLIC PAINT

← colour name → "Liquid Plastic"

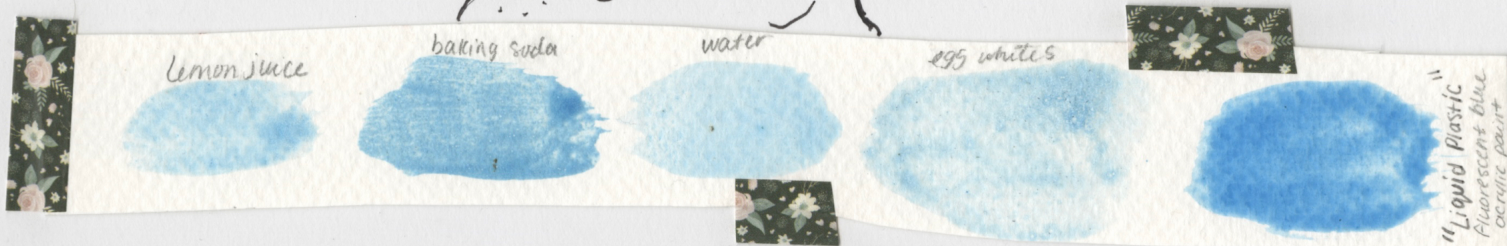
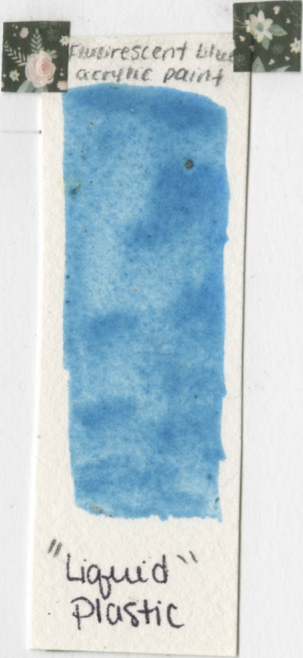
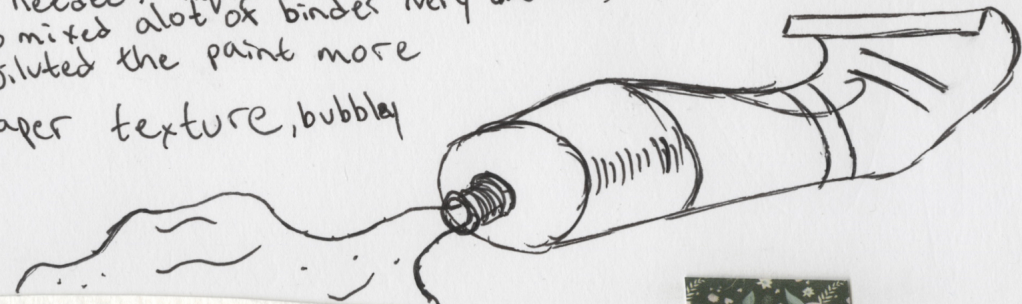
## Why?

- Paint is expensive!
- This is a cheap way to extend the life of Acrylic paint that you already have (or other materials)
- can change the finish
- Go forage within your own studio! (charcoal, pencil shavings etc)

## First Impressions...

- Smooth
- water colour / Gouache-like but is acrylic so it's not moving anywhere once dry
- Translucent - layers!
- Sky

- pestle & Mortar (not needed) - liquid pigment felt infinite, so mixed alot of binder (very diluted)
- additives mostly just diluted the paint more
- Baking soda - sand paper texture, bubbly



# UNBLEACHED FLOUR

← colour name → "Frothy Ivory"



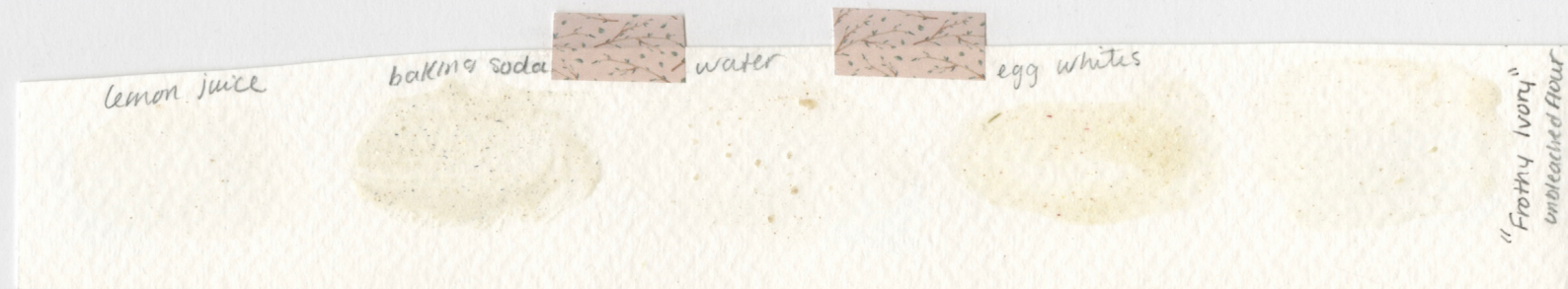
## Why?

- house hold pigment, accessible
- white is an in demand colour for mixing

## First Impressions...

- Organic & fine powder is ideal for smooth application
- frothy
- not a crisp white... more 'yellow' creamy

- pestle & Mortar (not needed)
- add binder + mix
- additives change yellow hue
- water - separates
- untested to mixing to other paints





Assorted Leaves  
 Colour name: "Tina Belcher's Zombie Boyfriend in a Jar"



Used a bundle of different dried leaves together



★ TIP ★

Dried leaves or petals are much easier to break down when dry. Helps the pigment start as a powder rather than a paste! ✖

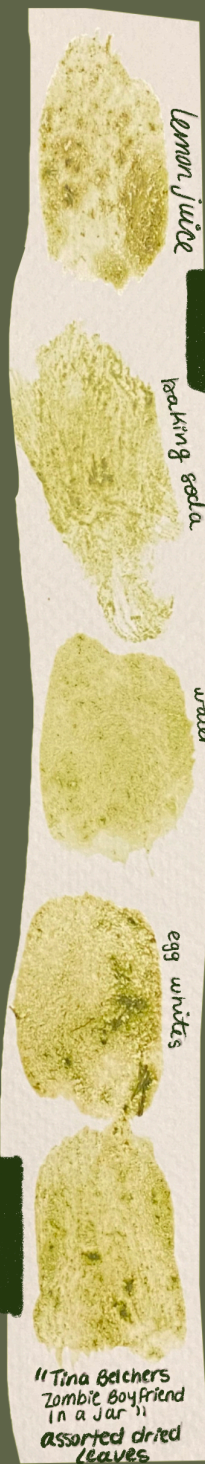
- o transparent paint
- o combined well but many stems remained

💡 Sift pigment to avoid chunks

Assorted Leaves



"Tina Belcher's Zombie Boyfriend in a Jar"

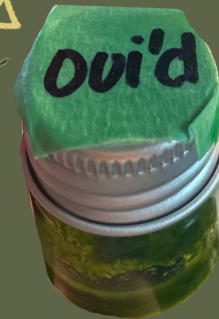


"Tina Belcher's Zombie Boyfriend in a Jar" assorted dried leaves

Cannabis leaf

Colour name: "Oui'd"

Got a mini jar full from 1 leaf!



If we had more leaves we could have made a more pigmented paint.

Cannabis leaf  
 Cannabaceae



"Oui'd"

- o very strong smell
- o became more yellow
- o transparent
- o small chunks throughout

💡 Sift



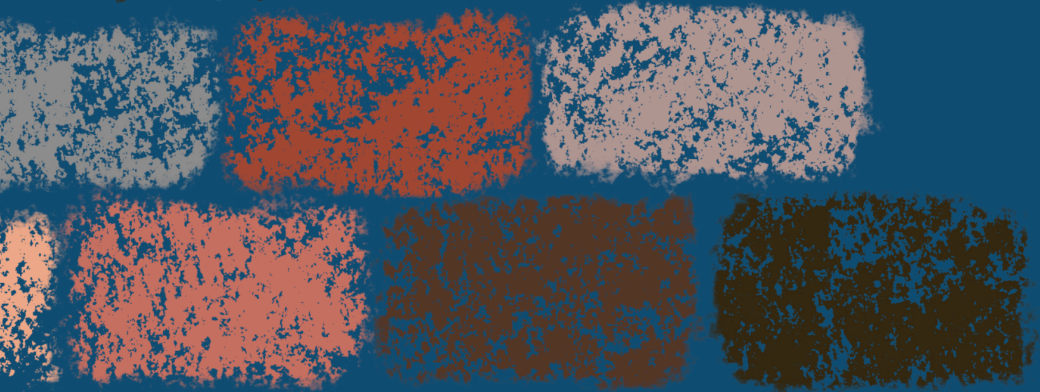
- made from 1 large marijuana leaf!



"Oui'd" Cannabis leaf Cannabaceae



# Pink Home Brick



BRICK COMES IN SO MANY COLOURS



who knew you could make paint with what is right outside your door?

Only need a little to make paint!

💡 Rocks can be used to make pigment too!

★ A chisel and hammer would make collecting this much easier ★

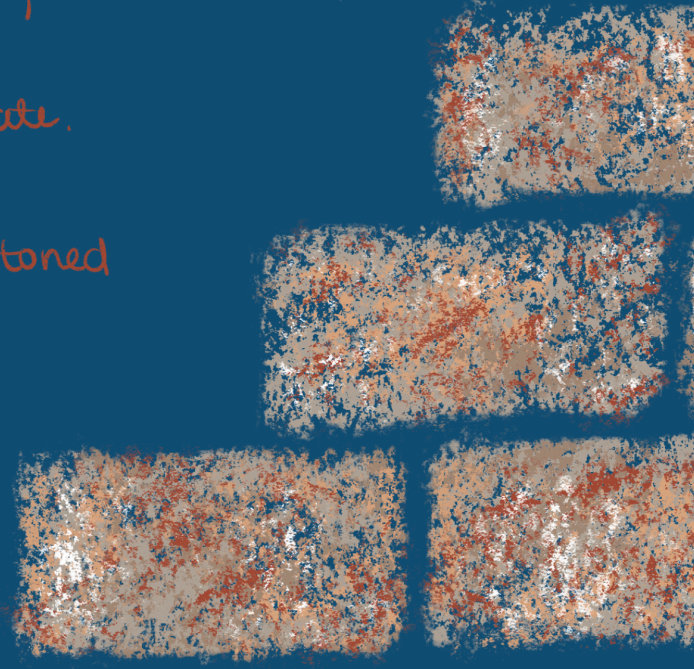
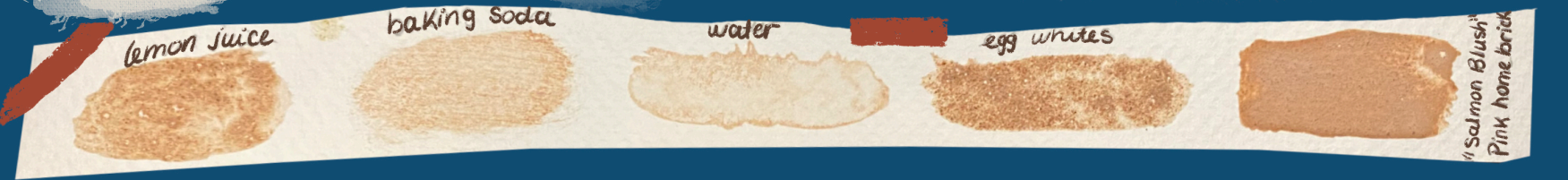


colour name: "Salmon Blush"

- o The brick needed to be broken down more
- o Uneven consistency: some thicker parts, very grainy, fairly pigmented, semi-opaque.
- o Other parts thinner, more transparent, very light overall grainy texture.
- o Egg whites made the pigment separate. most grainy texture
- o Water made a very diluted pastel-toned pigment

Lots and lots of rounds with the mortar and pestle. Take breaks!

This pigment would have worked better if used more methods for breaking the brick down. It is a very sandy texture



yes and...  
**NEXT?** keep in Mind  
 Explore more...



As of Nov. 9, 2023...

- When remaking a pigment
  - 1<sup>st</sup> research foraged material
    - in season? invasive, in danger, public property, safety
  - forage large quantity (compared to sample)
    - keep in mind what you learned
    - refine!
- Explore new techniques in refining pigment (powder)
  - sifter, pestle + mortar, dilute + dry, freeze + scatter
- Money saver... extending life span. of own art material
- Make an on the go, easy to add to portable case for book + foraging needs

- Undocumented pigments
  - forbidden tomato soup-berry } Browns
  - Purple Umber - failed purple } Kinda ugly
  - Virginia creeper - Berry



- Think about Pallet "Go to's"
  - making Additives apart of the pallets as mix ins
  - Red, yellow, Blue, white, Black
  - Batch size

- Future foraging Thoughts - Colour
  - most of our paints were warm tone, search + attempt pigment with a cool hue - undertone
  - Purple is very difficult to achieve, boil pine needles
  - shells - dyed shells
  - using personal objects vs everyday change meaning?
    - Dried flower bouquets } associate colours w things/nouns
    - scrape ink off old photos } Becca: Deep navy w glowy purple undertones
  - laying down under trees + all the leaves that land on you get reused as pigment! New life!





# RESEARCH &

## ◆ How to & supplies

- How to Forage / rules p. 1
- How to make binder p. 5
- How to make pigment p. 4
- How to make paint p. 4
- Foraging supplies p. 3
- Binder Supplies p. 5
- Pigment + Paint making Supplies p. 4

## ◆ Artist Inspirations (@instagram)

- Jason Logan
- Rebecca Belemore
- Tilke Elkins @wildpigmentproject
- Liz Spencer @thedogwooddyer
- Alexis Nikole @blackforager

# RESOURCES

## ◆ websites

- [www.wildpigmentproject.org](http://www.wildpigmentproject.org)
- [www.thedogwooddyer.com](http://www.thedogwooddyer.com)

## ◆ Other Books

- **MAKE INK** A Forager's Guide to Natural Ink making by Jason Logan
- **FOUND AND GROUND**: A Practical Guide to making your own foraged paints by Caroline Ross

## ◆ Materials

- Procreate
- Adobe Publisher 2
- Watercolour / Mixed Media Paper
- Beam Paints
- Washi Tape
- Charcoal
- Graphite
- Paint Swatches

★ All images in this book were captured by Rebecca Beleutz and Shan Moroz

