



Nature Collage inspired by artist, Hannah Klaus Hunter



Objective: Students will learn about the artist, Hannah Klaus by exploring her website and viewing her work. They will experiment with many ways to create a collage from their **Gel Press®** prints using a variety of tools and methods.

Materials:

- Gel Press®** plate
- White 80lb. drawing paper and other papers
- Acrylic paints or thick Tempera paints
- Squeeze bottles for paint or cups of paint
- Paint brushes, plastic cards, brayers, and sponges
- A variety of texture tools, stencils, stamps and real leaves.
- Scissors or die cutter
- Glue stick
- Rulers /straight edge
- Wipes or wet paper towel

Pre-Lesson:

- View art by Hannah Klaus Hunter (<https://hannahklaushunterarts.com/>)
- Discuss what shapes they see and ask students to guess how she made the pieces.
- Demonstrate how to use a **Gel Press®** plate.

National Core Arts Standards for the Visual Arts:

VA:Cr1.1.3: Elaborate on an imaginative idea

VA:Cr2.1.3a: Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.

VA:Re.7.1.3a: Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art.

VA:Re8.1.3a: Interpret art by analyzing use of media to create subject matter, characteristics of form, and mood.

VA:Cr2.1.4a: Explore and invent art-making techniques and approaches.

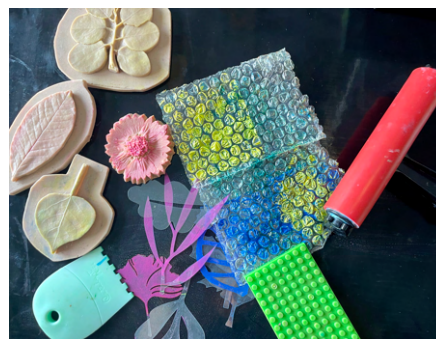
VA:Cr2.1.5a: Experiment and develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and approaches through practice.

Preparation:

- Set up printing stations at tables. Using trays for **Gel Press®** plates or a placemat for paints and plate to be set up helps minimize mess.
- Prepare paint in one location.

Tip: Have students choose contrasting colors for each print. Color choices should be planned before all prints are started to create unity in the final piece.

- Students should prepare their stencils and other cut shapes ahead of time.
- Have paint brushes, stamps, brayers, and other tools in a bin at tables.



Step 1: Cutting and Gathering

- After viewing the work of Hannah Klaus Hunter, discuss nature shapes and color schemes. Talk about what kinds of trees we have locally. If weather allows, go outside and gather some leaves for printing.

Tip: If going outdoors is not an option, you can collect leaves the day of printing and have some available to choose from OR use stamps/ rubber copies of leaves purchased from art supply companies.

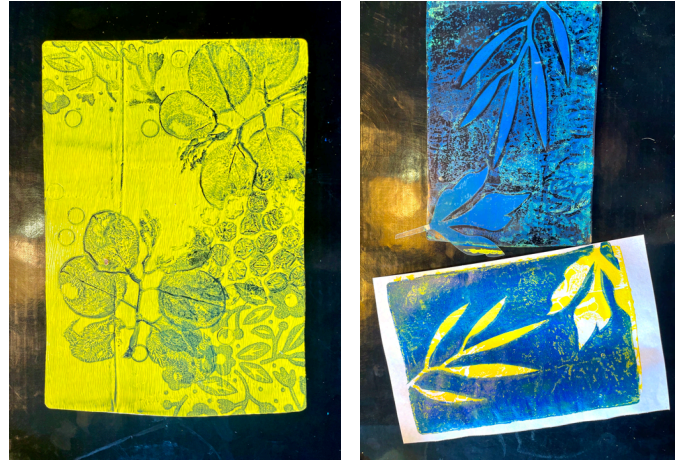
- Have students draw and cut out some leaf shapes or organic shapes from heavy paper or acetate sheets. They can use both the positive and negative space.
- Hand out a baggie or keep each student's cut out shapes in individual folders or portfolios for next art class.
- Students should also plan out their paper choices and paint color palette for next art class. Having these decisions and gathering done will allow for a smoother printing day.

Tip: Provide some different textured papers, music sheets, newspaper or text book printed papers, or scrap papers as an alternative to white. This will allow for variety.

Step 2: Printing

- Students will be making several prints today. Have them go to the paint station to get a tray of 2 colors (styrofoam or cafeteria trays work great for this but paper plates can also be used). Paint brushes will be used to apply dollops of paint to the **Gel Press®** plates.
- Students can experiment with composition, layers and textures. Roll one color onto the plate with a brayer, add texture or stamp into the color.
- Have them place a paper, name side up, onto the plate and rub. Pull the print.

- Add more paint to the **Gel Press®** plate and place a stencil over it. Rub the same paper onto it and rub. Pull the 2nd layered print.
- Set aside to dry and repeat using different colors and stamps/ stencils.
- Students should have 2-4 papers done at the end of class.



Step 3: Collage

- Using a ruler and pencil, students will divide up their prints into rectangles and squares. Demonstrate how to hold the ruler steady as they draw a line in which to cut on.
- They will arrange the pieces to create a composition with a variety of color, shapes and visual interest. They will glue the pieces down to a piece of large cardstock. Students arrange first and then glue down as they find a composition that satisfies them.

