

## Basically Impressive Pressings



### INTRODUCTION

**Make fun colorful leaf pressings using Liquitex Basics Acrylics.**

This project lesson shows how to quickly and easily transform leaves and more into beautiful artwork.

This project is fun, safe, and appropriate for all ages and all art experience levels.

It's accessible to children, useful for elementary art educators, and effective for professional artists.

Pressings can also decorate household objects, accessories, and more!

Time: 1-hour recommended.

### MATERIALS LIST

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Liquitex Basics Acrylic Colors<br>(3 colors of your choice + Titanium White) | 5. Palette                            |
| 2. Liquitex #10 Freestyle Brush (or size of your choice)                        | 6. Leaves (assorted shapes and sizes) |
| 3. Liquitex Freestyle Palette Knife   | 7. Old newspaper or towels            |
| 4. A 6x6 canvas (or size of your choice)  | 8. Disposable gloves                  |
|   | 9. Water                              |





## PROJECT STEPS



### STEP 1:

#### Gather Resources

Collect leaves and artists' materials. Make it an outdoor adventure! Look for interesting plants.

**Helpful reminder:** Avoid vines with shiny leaves in groups of three - like poison ivy or poison oak. Sturdy plants work better than softer plants.



### STEP 2:

#### Prepare Your Palette

Set colors on your palette. Leave lots of room between colors to mix and to apply to the leaves. Premixing colors in advance will encourage creative flow. Make sure to protect your work surface by covering it with an old newspaper or towel.

This project is so enticing that you may want to do a lot once you're all set up, so plan an area to spread them out to dry (about 5-15 minutes, depending on paint thickness and humidity).



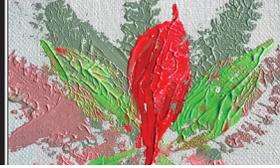
### STEP 3:

#### Explore Color Themes

Trying for color drama, contrast, excitement? Then pair opposites (yellow/violet, red/green, or blue/orange). Seeking color harmony and unity? Near neighbor colors to the rescue (yellow/green/blue, yellow/orange, red). Another way to color harmony: use colors near in value (light or dark quality). How about using your favorite colors? The Liquitex Basics range features bright, rich, inspiring colors.

#### TIP

Acrylics drying too fast for you? Adding Liquitex Slow-Dri Blending medium to colors lengthens open time.



## PROJECT STEPS



### STEP 4:

#### Apply a Design

4a.

Apply paint to each leaf that you intend to press down to create your design. You do not have to wait for each leaf pressing to dry, as working wet-into-wet will introduce unique visual characteristics to the piece.

**TIP**

To get clean, even color tones, mix with a knife and then apply with a brush.



4b.

Create order by intentionally placing and repeating shapes. Some favorite geometric patterns include: circles, spirals, and triangles. Try using a dominant center point of interest with smaller shapes leading up to, or away, from it.

When you're done, clean up acrylics with soap and water.



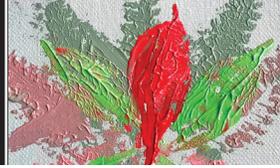
### STEP 5:

#### Experiment!

Consider leaf pressings to create your own greeting cards, make holiday decorations, spice up home decor, refurbish old furniture. Make it a keepsake. Save the good memories and share with friends!



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## ABOUT THE ARTIST



### Peter Andrew

Texas based Fine Arts Collective artist Peter Andrew works both plein air and in studio, investigating acrylics, oils, and watercolors. Andrew enjoys mixing media in the pursuit of expressive color. As a teacher he shares his processes, knowledge, and love of materials with others. Andrew's murals are featured in the Amegy Bank Headquarters Houston, the Palm Restaurant Houston, Methodist West Houston Hospital, Fort Belvoir US Army Hospital VA, and the Naranjo Museum of Natural History TX. Andrew studied at the MFA Boston Museum School, RISD, UMass Amherst, and privately with artists Wolf Kahn and at the Barnstone Studio School. Peter Andrew is a Fulbright Fellow and an artist member of the NY Society of Illustrators. Please 'friend' Peter on Facebook at Peter Andrew Landscape Colors, and visit his website at [www.peterandrew.net](http://www.peterandrew.net).

FOR MORE INSPIRATION, VISIT: <https://www.liquitex.com/us/>

## ABOUT LIQUITEX

### FOUNDED 1955

Challenging the established ways of doing things is in our DNA. It's how we invented the first water-based acrylic paint, and the reason why we have been innovating ever since. Empowering all artists to create with confidence and no limits. Challenging the established ways of doing things is in our DNA. It's how we invented the first water-based acrylic paint, and the reason why we have been innovating ever since. Empowering all artists to create with confidence and no limits.

