

# EMBOSSSED PLANTSCAPE

## INTRODUCTION

Make an embossed relief inspired by plants in your neighborhood.

*Embossing* aluminum to create a *relief* is a great way to *upcycle* aluminum into unique works of art. This tutorial will teach you how to emboss an aluminum foil pan, but you may try this with other products as well.



*Example of embossment.*

## MATERIALS

- Sketch book or sketch paper
- Pen or pencil for sketching
- Aluminum foil pan
- Scissors
- Tape
- Ballpoint pen
- Wooden skewer
- Rolling pin

## VOCABULARY

**Emboss:** To decorate a surface with a raised design.

**Low Relief:** A sculptural technique that lifts an image from its flat background, but only slightly - not to the extent of a high relief.

**High Relief:** A sculptural technique that lifts an image from its flat background, where the image protrudes much farther than a low relief.

**Upcycle:** to creatively reuse discarded material to create something new

**Composition:** In visual art, a composition arranges visual elements such as line, shape, color, and texture, usually seeking to create harmony and balance within an art piece.

## STEPS

- 1 First, go on a walk in your neighborhood. When you see a plant that inspires you, pause to make a quick, small sketch of it. You may also pause and sketch houses, animals, or other aspects of the neighborhood that inspire you.
- 2 Cut out your sketches. You will be arranging these soon to make a **composition**.
- 3 Using scissors, cut to remove the raised sides of the aluminum foil pan until you are left with the flat base.
- 4 Based on the size of your sketches, decide how large you'd like your embossment to be. Then, cut the aluminum base into the desired size for your composition. You may use a rolling pin to smooth out the texture.
- 5 Use your ruler and ballpoint pen to draw straight lines along the border of the base, pressing down firmly with the pen. Use that groove to fold over the sharp edges of the foil. You may use the rolling pin to flatten the edges. Complete the next steps with the folded over edges facing the table.
- 6 Arrange your cut-outs into a composition on top of the aluminum. You may consider shape, balance, and narrative while arranging. When you're ready, tape down your drawings.
- 7 Trace your sketches, pressing firmly with your ballpoint pen.
- 8 Remove the sketches, then flip over your aluminum to see your **embossment**, which is also a **low relief**. You may flip it back around and deepen the grooves with your skewer.
- 9 To make different parts of your embossment protrude further, use the rounded tip of your sharpie pen cap, or your skewer, to "color in" sections. Experiment with this technique. You may flip the aluminum over & use the skewer to refine the edges of your raised shapes.

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