

Autumn Patterns

This activity takes inspiration from Giocondo (Goghy) Faggioni's leaf fabric pattern design in our Italian Threads: MITA Textile Designs 1926 - 1976 exhibition and beautiful autumn colours and shapes. Start by simply arranging leaves you find and see what patterns you can create and how you can further develop these using different art techniques.



Giocondo (Goghy) Faggioni, Design for Leaves or Autumn Fabric, 1953



Giocondo (Goghy) Faggioni, Leaves or Autumn fabric sample, 1953

1. Go for a walk outside and look carefully at the leaves on the ground.
2. Pick them up and carefully consider their colour and shape.



3. Collect up to 10 or more. You could have multiples of the same type of leaf.



4. Find a plain background to arrange your leaves on
- paper, table, floor inside or outside.

5. Explore patterns you can make by arranging the leaves in different ways

- circles
- lines
- close together
- spaced out
- scattered
- pointing in same/opposite directions
- facing up
- facing down





Top Tip: Be selective with the leaves you choose- what do you like about them? When you're done, do the shapes and colour relate to each other?

Experiment: How could you document your patterns?

- Photograph them- close up, at different angles, print them out and cut them up
- Draw around them, draw only the leaf skeleton
- Take rubbings of the leaves with coloured crayons or pencil
- Cut them up and stick them down to create a collage
- Draw them using a stick and coffee ink.
- Try mixing the colour of the leaves with paint

Research: Why do leaves change colour? What makes them change certain colours?