

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?

Futurballa Tree

In 1915 Giacomo Balla and Fortunato Depero wrote the seminal manifesto "Futurist Reconstruction of the Universe." Futurism became the prism through which he viewed the world and he started to sign all his artworks as Futurballa. He applied Futurist interest not only on the dynamism of cities and mechanisation but the forms and energy in the natural world and made lots of Futurist flower and plant sculptures. Following the instructions below, have a go at making your own Futurballa style tree and consider what might trees look like in the future?



Giacomo Balla, Futurist Flower, c. 1920



Giacomo Balla, Futurist Flower, c. 1920

What you will need

Cardboard (thinner the better as it's easier to cut more intricate shapes)

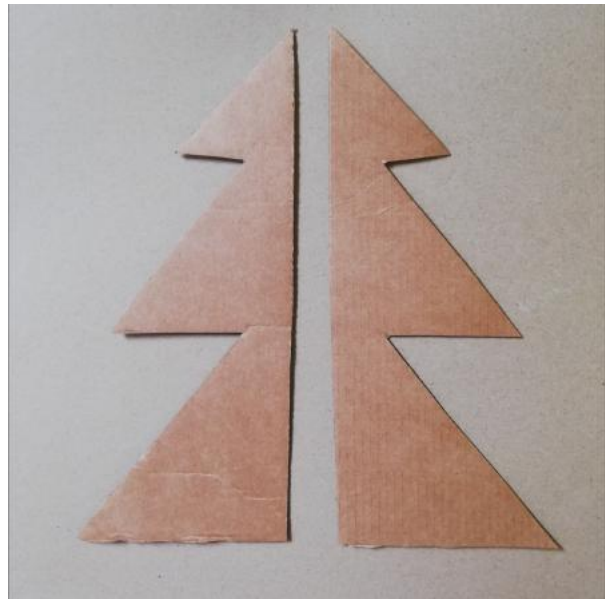
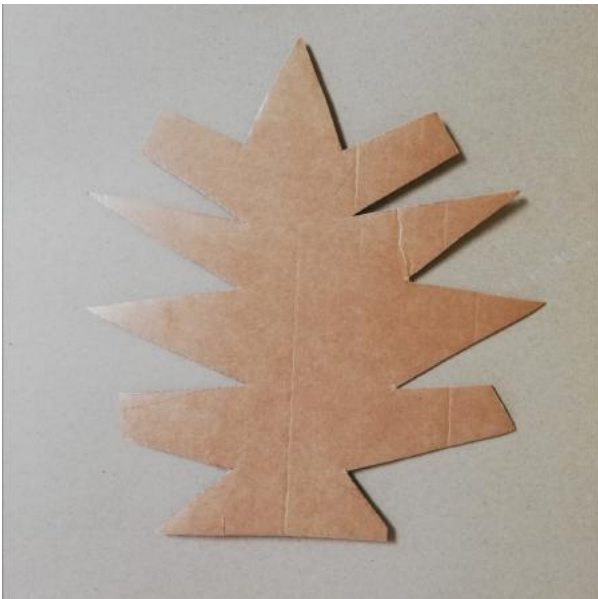
Pencil

Scissors

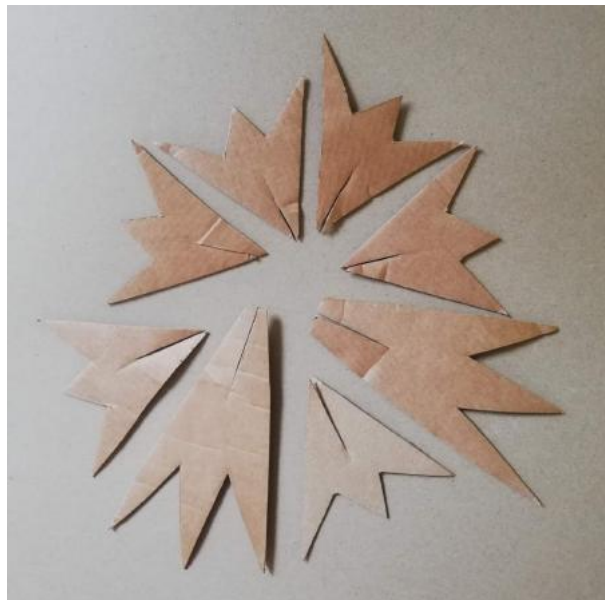
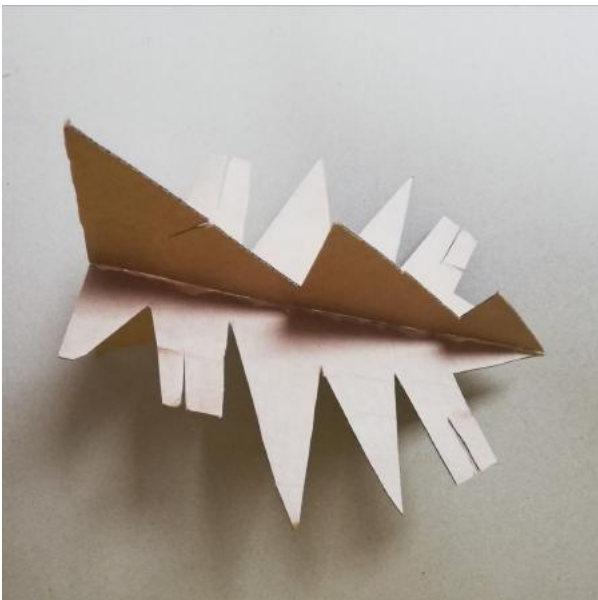
UHU Glue or sticky tape

Decoration- paint- acrylic is good, or you could recycle foil and coloured paper to make decorations and patterns on your tree.

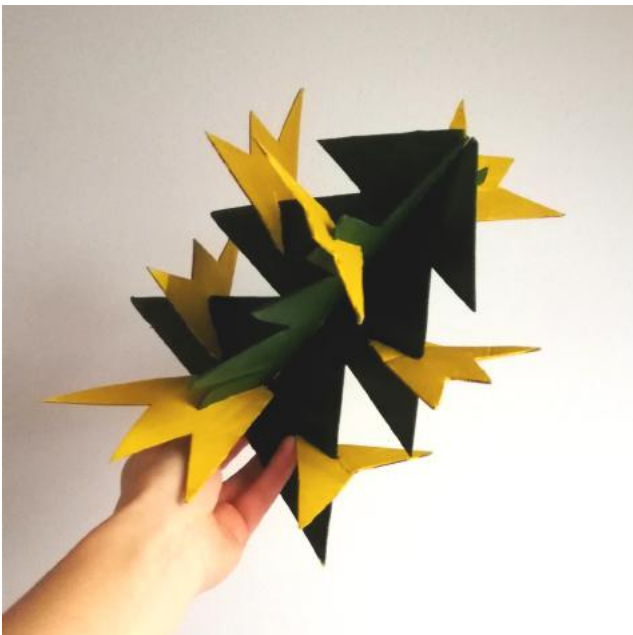
- 1) Draw and cut out two tree shapes from cardboard (thinner the better).
- 2) Cut one in half or make a long slit as close to the top as possible.



- 3) Slot them together and fasten with Uhu glue or sticky tape.
- 4) Cut out 6 smaller shapes and 2 larger shapes.
- 5) Cut slits half way on your shapes and on some of the branches of your tree to help slot them on together.



- 6) Decorate your tree with coloured paper, or foil or paint in bright colours. If you choose to paint the tree, paint the individual parts separately and then slot them on afterwards.



Top Tip: Keep your eyes out for recycled thin cardboard packaging or coloured card.

Experiment: Steal shapes from different plants and merge them to create a new variety.

Research: How are new varieties of plants bred? What is the oldest species of tree still in existence?