

Painting Patterns and Textures with Household Objects

Inspired by artist Darcie Kennedy, currently exhibiting as part of our "Presently" exhibition at the Art Gallery of Peterborough.

Her painting *Untitled (Tools and Combs #3)* uses common household tools and other items to create textured patterns by reflecting domestic actions such as chores, cooking, and cleaning, and the result is a pattern that looks like textiles, wallpaper, and upholstery commonly found in the home.

In this activity, you will make your own artwork, like Darcie Kennedy, experimenting with different ways to apply paint by using household objects.

Suitability: Ages 6+

You Will Need:

- A sheet of paper, cardboard, bristol board, or canvas
- Paint – a thicker paint, like acrylic, works best, but thin paint like watercolours will not work.
- Paintbrush
- Paper plate or palette
- A comb, fork, or another similar household object

Step 1:

Begin by covering the surface of your paper/canvas in a thick layer of paint. You can use any colour you want!

Step 2:

While the paint is still wet, take your comb and drag the teeth through the paint in a single direction. This should scrape off some of the paint, leaving behind a striped pattern.

Step 3:

Once your first layer of paint has completely dried, you can add another layer of colour. For this step, you have three options. Try one, both, or experiment by coming up with your own technique.

Option 1:

Using a paintbrush cover the surface with another thick layer of paint, then drag your comb through the paint in the opposite direction.

Option 2:

Dip the teeth of the comb into your second colour of paint and drag it across your paper. Try dragging the comb in different directions on the page!

Step 4 (optional):

Repeat Steps 2 and 3 as many times as you want, but make sure that you are always letting each layer dry before starting on the next.

Try using different shades of the same colour, pick colours at random, or try challenging yourself by using only colours you dislike. See what combinations you can create!