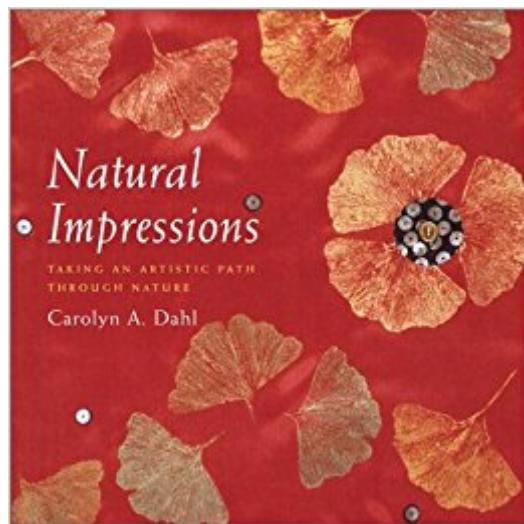


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# Natural Impressions: Taking An Artistic Path Through Nature



## **Synopsis**

Since the beginning of time, artists have looked to nature for inspiration. They have sketched its shapes, admired its colors, painted its textures, and copied its patterns. *Natural Impressions* offers a unique way to cultivate creativity by making prints directly from natural objects. In this innovative book, author and crafter Carolyn Dahl demonstrates how printing with a natural material-covering it with a medium and pressing it to a surface-allows artists to see and appreciate exquisite, often-overlooked details and make physical contact with the earth that sustains us. *Natural Impressions* begins with practical guidance on collecting materials and objects, along with basic instructions for making a successful nature print. Divided into three sections-leaves, flowers, and fish-the book clearly demonstrates a variety of techniques using an array of mediums; for example, paints/pigments, bleach, collage, markers, textile paints, and even rubber stamps. Plus, a special section details how nature prints can meet today's technology with photocopying and computer manipulation. Carolyn Dahl mesmerizes readers with enchanting, emotional stories and observations about nature. She helps them realize the myriad ways nature impacts the creative spirit, and inspires them with dozens of inventive paper and fabric projects featuring remarkable nature prints. Whether one is a beginning artist or an experienced veteran, the techniques in *Natural Impressions* can be done successfully by anyone-and are sure to foster a deeper, more intimate relationship with nature.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This has become one of my favorite books; I have shared it with artists and non-artists alike, who all

were rejuvenated by the author's poetic, spiritual, and inspirational approach to nature. Unlike another reviewer, I was glad that the author's direct, visceral, and lyrical interaction with her subject avoided direct references to God or an "intelligent designer"--this simply is not germane to her purpose in this gem of a book. Ironically, her meditations on her forays into the natural world teach us, nonetheless, that nature herself can inspire the highest spiritual and moral behaviors if we only choose to slow down, observe, respect, and listen to her wisdom.

I loved this book. My kids and I have already made fish print tee-shirts, but a serious artist would also find a lot of useful stuff in here. I can't wait to try the moonlit leaves project.

This book inspired me to take on a project I'd never attempted: using rubber stamps to decorate the walls of my powder room. I'd planned to stencil a border, but Dahl's book gave such clear, easy-to-follow directions that I decided to try a new technique, as well as choose a design straight from nature. The result was a lovely cascade of leaves in autumn colors. The book displays not just the author's considerable skills and experience with craft projects, but also her respect and reverence for the source of her inspiration: nature. *Natural Impressions* is a must-have addition to the bookshelves of both novice and seasoned crafters.

Wonderful ideas for making "natural" prints, including different kinds of fish prints. Book was recommended to me by a collage artist, as you can easily make additions to collage with the created pieces. The book is very inspiring!

Since reading this book, I look at nature differently, seeing shapes, colors, and compositions with more clarity and appreciation. I was especially moved by the essay, "Flying Flowers," on the power of nature to heal, restore, and inspire. The Butterfly Quilt pictured in this chapter is breath-taking. I am not an artist, but I feel well prepared by the easy-to-understand instructions and illustrative photos to begin a project.

Carolyn Dahl is a teacher with a great imagination and the ability to teach without being overbearing. The book is a real treat for people who long to find out where their creativity lies, or for artists who need to re-connect with theirs.

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