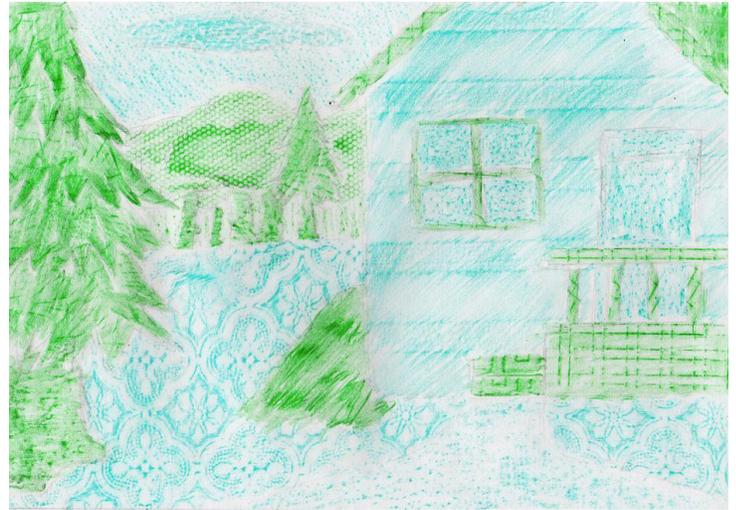




Smith, Vicki. Detail of Rubbings. 2012. *Vicki Smith Art with Kids*.



FlamerXMagofire. Detail of Printing Frottage Color 2. 2017. Deviant Art, DeviantArt.

Frottage "Collages"

Frottage (fruh-taaz), which means “rubbing” in French, is an art technique made by obtaining a surface texture through rubbing with a drawing tool. This technique was created by Max Ernst (1891-1976), a German artist who found inspiration in the rubbings of the wooden floors in his house. To see this technique applied, check out some of Ernst's works on the Art Institute of Chicago's website.

Frottage is a means to connect artists with their surroundings, helping them stimulate their imagination. Interacting with the items seen everyday in a creative manner allows the development of new perspectives on art, technique, and experimentation. Explore the world around you and find a new way to create art!

Learning objectives

- Close observation. Art can be made anywhere and young artists can find inspiration in their own home with materials all around them.
- Practice translating. This process strengthens creativity and imagination, helping the artist to transfer reality to artwork.
- Learn about frottage technique and apply that knowledge to future projects. Artists have been inspired by their frottage images and reshaped it into a completely new artwork.

Materials needed

- Crayons
- Pencils
- Paper
- Any rough surface texture

Step 1: Move around the house and/or outside to find rough surface textures.

The bumpier the texture is, the easier it will be to see it translated on the paper.

Wood, stone, coins, and coarse cloth are some examples of items with excellent texture for frottage art.

Step 2: Lay your paper over the texture. Lay your drawing tool sideways or slanted and rub to reveal the transferred texture.

Notice the dark and light spots. Does the amount of pressure change the intensity of the color? How does the same texture look like with different tools? Use this information to create the perfect feel for your drawing.

Step 3: Play around with the technique!

You can change up the direction of the rubbing, use a variety of colors, and even layer different textures. With frottage, let your imagination run wild with the hidden images that you find within the textures. Do the lines remind you of waves? Or maybe they seem like flowy hair? How can you play around with frottage to create a new drawing?

Want to keep going?

- Find letters on surfaces and use frottage to spell out your name
- Cut up your frottage and rearrange it to create a new image
- Draw a self portrait and use frottage to add texture to your hair and face

When you're done with your project, take a picture and share it with us too! You can tag us on social media (@[designmuseumchi](#) on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) or email us at info@designchicago.org. We're looking forward to seeing your work!