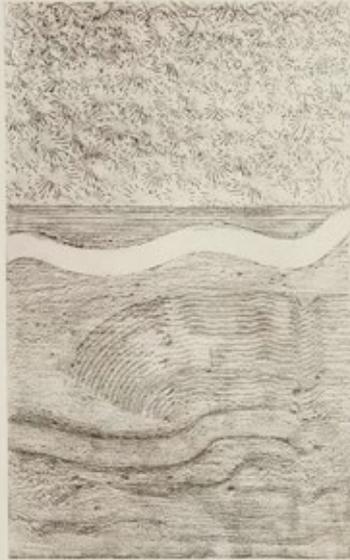


# talc. ART PACK

Drawing and frottage workshop age 10+  
(inspired by Max Ernst)

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With this art pack, we would like you to look at the artist Max Ernst (born 2 April 1891). Max Ernst was a German artist known for his paintings, graphic work, sculpture, collage novels and poetry. Despite having no formal training as an artist – Ernst became to be one of the main pioneers of the Dada movement and also Surrealism. His experimental attitude towards making work resulted in his invention of frottage – a technique that uses pencil rubbings of objects to create visuals- and grattage - a similar technique that involves scraping paint across a canvas to reveal the imprints of objects placed beneath.

After 2 years of studying philosophy psychology, literature and art history at the University of Bonn, Ernst decided to become an artist. In 1925, he invented frontage and grattage – two techniques that are said to free the imagination from the constrictions of conscious control. Looking into the unconscious for inspiration and deconstructing what we know to create new perspectives and experimental play were all central to the concept of Dadaism and Surrealism.

For talcs project *dust* we were particularly interested in Ernst’s “Histoire Naturelle” (Natural History). These were a series of images where Ernst used frottage to capture textures nature – placing paper on top of plants or material and lightly rubbing the surface with a crayon. He then added details to transform them into fantastical landscapes, objects and creatures. Talking about creating work Ernst said: “Creativity is that marvellous capacity to grasp mutually distinct realities and draw a spark from their juxtaposition.” (source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max\\_Ernst](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Max_Ernst))

**We would like you to create interesting compositions and patterns – thinking specifically about texture and outline. Pick a flower/plant from your garden or on a walk and look at it: what are the visual features that makes this plant identifiable/distinct? In this art pack you will find paper and a soft pencil that will allow you to experiment with Ernst’s mark making technique ‘Frottage’. Try doing this by putting your plant/flower under a piece of paper and rubbing a pencil lightly over the surface. You can also explore outline by looking at the kinds of shadows your plant casts against a piece of paper, and drawing it. Play with these and repeat these elements to create patterns. Allow yourself to be experimental and go with the flow!**

**PLEASE TAKE PHOTOS OR LITTLE VIDEOS OF YOUR ARTWORK AND SEND THEM TO TALC.!**

This art pack is created for talc.’s project *dust*, funded by Creative Scotland Open Fund.