



EPHEMERAL NATURE COMPOSITION

Create a temporary artwork from materials found in your yard or neighborhood. Use Nancy Mladenoff's *Undertow* as inspiration. Do you recognize any shapes, plants, or animals in this artwork?



Inspiration Image: Nancy Mladenoff, *Undertow*, 2005. Oil and spray paint on canvas. 84 in. x 108 in. Collection of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Gift from the Edward and Amal Vitale Family.

SUPPLIES

- Organic materials found in nature such as twigs, leaves, grasses, flowers, berries, pinecones, acorns, stones, etc.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Explore your backyard or a park in your neighborhood to gather materials that inspire you. Gather some organic materials around you to use. Things like twigs, leaves, grasses, flowers, berries, pinecones, acorns, and stones work really well. Remember to ask permission before taking things from a neighbor's yard!
- Pick a place to lay out our composition. Do you see how the objects in *Undertow* seem to be moving towards one spot? Pick a meaningful or large item to be the center of your composition.
- Start placing other items you gathered near the center first and continue moving outward from the center until you've created a design you like. Make it however you like! Will it be big or small? Will it have a specific shape? Will it be simple or complex? Will there be symmetry? Will it be one color or monochromatic? Will it be brightly colored or muted?
- Continue adding items until your supplies are used up or your composition looks complete.
- Take a picture, if you'd like!



KEY WORDS

- Ephemeral* means lasting for a very short time. You probably won't be able to keep your ephemeral nature composition for a long time but you can take a picture of it!
- Composition* means the artistic arrangement of the parts of a picture.
- Symmetry* means there is balance on both or all sides. Think of how a butterfly's wings are the same on both sides of its body.
- Monochromatic* means using only one color. There might be different tones and shades. For example, you might use only green, but include bright green grass, dark green pine needles, and light green leaves.