**MATERIALS FOR BOTANICAL PRINTS WORKSHOPS**

**WITH CATHERINE MICHAELIS**

**Bring:**

**4 Large binder clips per person – they look like this.**

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**Suggested plant list:**

If everyone can bring onion skins, tops, bottom root part, **any part you do not eat**. Put all left over onion parts in a bag in the freezer - as they will mold. Parts from 2-6 onions per person will suffice. (Red and/or yellow onions.) It is nice when you slice off the tops and bottom and save them, especially for the circles inside circles they will make.

Below is a suggested plant list to give you greater amounts of actual color and variety to what I will be bringing. I can only harvest a sampling of things for each of you. However, you do not need to buy these, just look around your yard or ask your neighbors. If you can’t find them, no worry. Bring a sampling of things in your yard anyway (see below). There is a lot of experimentation in this process, so this list is only a guideline. **Please do not bring any known toxic or poisonous plants.**

Flowers you could bring if you have access to them: dark hollyhocks, marigolds, yellow, orange, and maroon daylilies, St. John’s Wort (the medicinal weed that grows along ditches, not the landscaping variety), purple petunias, dark pansies, dandelions, red or any dark roses. You will have to freeze the St. John’s Wort, dandelions, and marigolds to keep them from going to seed. Hollyhocks and daylilies are best fresh or naturally dried. Pansies and petunias can be dried or frozen. Roses can be fresh or frozen. Keep frozen flowers as frozen as possible until used at workshop. Also, golden rod and chamomile flowers and leaves, fresh, dried, or frozen. These are all tried and true for me!

Other plant material if you have them: sumac berries, leaves, and cones. Fresh Bloody Dock leaves and marijuana leaves. Purple and maroon tree leaves often make color – especially the maroon leaved ornamental plums. And any leaves with tannins might work! **Please bring a handful of each leaf, not branches and boughs.**

If you eat them: bring a sliced and frozen avocado seed! (It can thaw after it’s been frozen.)

Lastly, when I bundle up my paper I wrap the outside in heavy leaves like fern fronds (the old ones that need cutting off anyway), broken hosta leaves, worn brown and dark spotted red bergenia leaves, etc. The point is to decorate the outside of my bundle with stripes, leaf stencils, etc. so we have decoration over all the paper. But ferns are our favorite. If you have some fronds to trim - bring up to a dozen, no more. I’ll bring a bag, too. Onionskins can be added to the outside of the bundle for extra color, if you bring a plentiful amount.

We have tried many plants that have not worked at all for color, like fuchsias, the buttercup that runs rampant, and the annual geraniums. That said, there are many plants we have not tried. It helps if everyone brings just one or two leaves from one or two plants in your yard and a few flowers not mentioned here, and we could all learn something together. We are avoiding wild native plants, as many are endangered and should be picked with care and only a bit at a time. If you do any research on natural dyes you will get many ideas of what might work. What works on silks and wools won't always work on paper, as cotton is different than protein fibers. Be gentle with living plants. I often go for the damaged leaves and fading flowers and pick from the ground.

And remember – I’ll be bringing a bit of many things for you to experiment with.

P.S. People in past workshops have brought entire vehicles full of plant material for using and sharing, and the majority of it was un-usable due to lack of interest, lack of time, and/or lack of success with that plant. It left far too much compost and clean up behind. Variety is better than quantity. If all your leaves and flowers, minus stems, fit in a sink tub (not including long fern fronds), that’s plenty! If you have something you want to share with everyone, we love it, but consider bringing just one or two leaves or flowers per person, not bins full.