



Ecoprint and Fiber Workshops with M Theresa Brown

Welcome! I have taught hundreds of classes and workshops in many different settings around the US (and online) from private to school to fiber events! The workshops listed below in this mini-catalogue are my most common offerings. Information on additional classes I teach can be found on my website at <https://www.thesilkthread.com/workshops> All of my one-day workshops are designed to be Beginner Friendly, to encourage newcomers to try a new art form with confidence and experienced students to learn new techniques!

*Please note that additional information such as what the student should bring to class and what supply fees for the workshop are and what they include, are included in the class description.

Workshop Offerings Mini-Catalogue:

Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon fibers using the process taught in the workshop. A few additional popular workshops are also included.

Workshops in this catalog below

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Please see others on my website-www.thesilkthread.com/workshops



1. Ecoprint Naturally on Silk and Wool

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess Workshop!

Learn how to create beautiful natural plant designs directly from Nature on silk and wool. Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon protein fibers using the process taught in the workshop. Students will learn techniques to create beautiful, natural designs with colors drawn directly from Nature on silk and wool. At the end of the day, students will take home their silk and wool ecoprinted samples and the knowledge to continue Ecoprinting from Nature's resources. Ecoprinting is a natural, sustainable art form.

Students should bring:

1. An empty one gallon water jug to use as weight (can be filled at class)
2. Leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac, blackberry, kudzu and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and colorful " flat" flowers such as daises. No thick plants.

SUPPLIES: \$25.00 Covers *1 hemmed silk scarf and 1 unhemmed wool scarf, all equipment (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, plastic, mordants}, table coverings, information class summary sheet instructions and mordant mixing.

*Wool can be substituted for silk



Ecoprints on Silk and Wool (Natural)



Ecoprints on Silk and Wool (Natural)

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Students at work in an Ecoprint Workshop. Normally there are two students per table.

2. Ecoprint on Silk and Wool in Color

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess 6 hour Workshop!

Learn how to imprint beautiful Plant designs from Nature and create a background in rich color on silk and wool. Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon fibers using the process you learn in the workshop. In this workshop, students will learn techniques to enhance the natural designs to create richly colored backgrounds on their silk and wool. At the end of the day, students will take home both a silk and wool scarf sample ecoprinted in color and the knowledge to continue Ecoprinting from Nature's resources. Ecoprinting is a natural, sustainable art form.

To Bring: Students should

- 1 gallon empty water jug to use as a weight. (can be filled at class)
- Leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and flat flowers such as daises. No thick or woody plants or waxy leaves such as camellia or magnolia. Leaves can be fresh, pressed or dry. Dry leaves need to be re-hydrated 30 minutes prior to using them.

SUPPLIES: \$30.00 material fee: Covers 1 hemmed silk scarf and 1 merino wool scarf (unfinished edges), all equipment and disposables (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, rubber bands, plastic) mordants, use of 2 pre-dyed color blankets, information and summary sheets.





Figure 1 Colored Backgrounds



Figure 2 Happy Student

3. Ecoprint in Multi-color on Silk and Wool

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess 6 hour Workshop!

Learn how to imprint beautiful Plant designs from Nature and create an artistic multi-colored background in rich colors on silk and wool. Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon protein fibers using the process you learn in the workshop. In this workshop, students will learn techniques to enhance the natural plant designs to create rich, multi-colored backgrounds on their silk and wool. At the end of the day, students will take home both a silk and wool scarf sample ecoprinted in multi-color and the knowledge to continue Ecoprinting from Nature's resources.

To Bring: Students should

- 1 gallon empty water jug to use as a weight. (can be filled at class)
- Leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and flat flowers such as daises. No thick or woody plants or waxy leaves such as camellia or magnolia. Leaves can be fresh, pressed or dry. Dry leaves need to be re-hydrated 30 minutes prior to using them.

SUPPLIES: \$35.00 material fee: Covers 1 hemmed silk scarf and 1 merino wool scarf (unfinished edges), all equipment and disposables (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, rubber bands, plastic) mordants, use of multiple pre-dyed color blankets and sections to create color collages, and information and summary sheets.





Figure 3 multi-colored silk scarf

4. Dual Ecoprint on Silk (Naturally and in color)

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess 6 hr Workshop!

This is a popular, 1 day class for small organizations (museums, churches, guilds, art groups, art galleries, etc) not associated with a big venue.

Learn how to imprint beautiful Plant designs from Nature and create 2 beautiful silk scarves. One with the natural imprints from leaves and plants and the second with the addition of a beautiful background color! Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon protein fibers using the process you learn in the workshop. In this workshop, students will learn techniques to enhance the natural designs to create 2 beautiful silk scarves with their plant designs. At the end of the day, students will take home 2 silk scarves, *one natural and one with a color background, and the knowledge to continue Ecoprinting from Nature's resources.

*This class also be taught as a natural and multi-colored option for the 2 scarves

To Bring: Students should

- 1 gallon empty water jug to use as a weight. (can be filled at class)
- Leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and flat flowers such as daises. No thick or woody plants or waxy leaves such as camellia or magnolia. Leaves can be fresh, pressed or dry. Dry leaves need to be re-hydrated 30 minutes prior to using them.

SUPPLIES: \$30.00 material fee: Covers 2 hemmed silk scarves, all equipment and disposables (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, rubber bands, plastic) mordants, use of a pre-dyed color blanket (or option 2 with multi-colored) to create their color background, plus information and summary sheets.





Figure 4 Multi-colored and Natural Eco Silk

5. Ecoprint on Leather Naturally and in Color

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess *6 hr Workshop!

Learn how to ecoprint on lamb and sheepskin leather naturally and in color! Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon their leather with techniques learned in the workshop. Students will learn:

- **Leather**-everything you need to know to understand, locate, select, and work with leathers that accept ecoprinting no matter where you live!
- **Equipment**-what you need and how to use it (most of which you already have!
- **Plants**-All about plants, leaves, weeds and flowers and using them on Leather
- **Mordants**- descriptions and ratios
- **Dyes**- easy to use selections for permanent results
- **Leather Care** - and conditioning of your leather
- **Sources** for leather, dyes and mordants and tools (in US and online)

At the end of class students will leave with 2 samples (approx. 8" x 18") of ecoprinted lamb and sheepskin leather; one naturally ecoprinted and one in color and with the ability to continue the process with the knowledge learned in the workshop.

***Options:** This workshop can be 1-5 days with the addition of a Maker's portion where students add a heavier leather to the process, use tools (from a separate kit), hand and machine sew and create a finished product with their leather. They learn to install closures, hardware and fittings. Workshop can be tailored to specific days.

- **To Bring:** Students should bring leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and daisy type flowers. No thick or waxy plants although stems attached to leaves are fine. Fresh or pressed or dry. Dry leaves will be re-hydrated.

Supply Fee: *\$35.00 material fee for the 6 hr class: Except for local leaves, the instructor provides everything else to teach the class: sections of lamb and sheepskin

leather, all operating and processing equipment (turkey roasters, wood dowels, fabric strips, work baskets) use of pre-dyed (by instructor) blankets for color. Information and resource sheets.



Creating with Leather opens up all sorts of creative ideas!



Figure 5 Beginner Student results in Leather workshop



Enthusiastic Students at a 5 day Ecoprint on Leather Maker's Workshop at John C Campbell Folk School!

6. Ecoprint on Paper Naturally and in Color

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess 6 hr Workshop!

Although I teach this workshop at large venues, it is a popular, 1 day class for small organizations (museums, churches, guilds, art groups, art galleries, etc) that are not associated with a big venue. Less space is required than with long scarves.

Learn how to ecoprint (also known as Botanical printing) on assorted papers using the tannins from the leaves to imprint beautiful designs onto the fibers! You will also learn additional techniques to add color into the backgrounds of your designs! In the end, students will know how to use Nature's resources, different papers and techniques to create beautiful notecards, designs and even jewelry! Students will be imprinting on approximately 4-6 pieces of 8"x 10" printing paper. Workshop is Beginner Friendly.

- **To Bring:** Students should bring leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and colorful "flat headed" flowers such as daisies. No thick plants although leaves with stems are fine. Fresh or pressed or dry. Dry leaves can be re-hydrated.

SUPPLIES: \$30.00 material fee: Covers all equipment (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, dyes, plastic) mordants, assorted papers in various sizes (enough for several projects), resource list.





Students at work on Ecoprinting on Paper.



Ecoprint on Paper in Color



Ecoprint on Paper Natural

7. Create Your own Block Print for Leather and Tote Bag

A Beginner Friendly and No Dye Mess 6 hour Workshop!

Create your own design out of an easy to carve printmaking block and print onto a cotton canvas tote bag and sheep leather! A fun introductory class to the art of block printing, using your design on any surface. Learn the fundamentals of block printing which include How to transfer a simple design onto your block, how to use a Speedball multi-blade tool to easily carve the design. How to ink your design to imprint onto paper and then a canvas tote bag. Students will leave with their own 14 x 10" x 2" gusseted cotton tote bag imprinted with their own design, an *8" x 10" sheep leather sample, their handcrafted rubber block print stamp (That can be used on additional surfaces such as wool and silk) and several hand stamped prints on paper.

*leather is optional for smaller venues with a \$5.00 reduction in supply fee if not used.

To Bring: Students do not need to bring anything. Designs will be abstract and anything goes!

Supply Fee: *\$40.00 supply fee covers one 14x10" x 2" cotton tote bag, printing papers and an 8" x10" sample of sheep leather, carving block, printing inks, paper, cutting mats, use of linoleum carving tools, disposable supplies (paper towels, pencils, sponges, latex gloves, transfer paper) resource list

- \$35.00 if no leather is used
-



Figure 6 Carve your own block print



Figure 7 Students carving their own blocks



Figure 8 Students in printmaking class

8. Ecoprint and Needle Felt a Wallhanging! A 2 day class

A TWO DAY beginner friendly workshop!

Learn to ecoprint a wallhanging and then embellish it with a beautiful needle felted bird!

Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon protein fibers. Learn the techniques to create beautiful, all-natural designs and colors drawn directly from nature on raw silk.

Day 1: Working on an 18" x 24" section of raw silk, students will learn techniques to imprint leaf and plant designs with a colored background on their pieces. Students will wash their pieces and let them dry overnight. Meanwhile they will decide on adding either a bluebird, chickadee or cardinal to their piece.

Day 2: Using the provided kits, students will learn to needle felt a bird (or two) into the dry design of their wallhanging.

Instructions are included for simple finishing of their wallhanging.

To Bring: Students do not need to bring anything.

Supply Fee: \$35.00 supply fee covers one 18 x24" section of raw silk, use of needle felting tools , felting wool to create their birds. Designs of birds, all equipment and disposables (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, rubber bands, plastic) mordants, use of 1 pre-dyed color blankets, information and summary sheets.





Figure 9 bluebirds needle felted onto raw silk



Figure 10 Cardinals needle felted onto raw silk

9. Ecoprinting Yardage on Silk and/or Wool

This can be a **1 or 2 day** workshop. Previous experience helpful. Perfect workshop for a student who sews garments.

Learn how to create beautiful ecoprinted plant designs on silk yardage! Eco printing (also known as botanical printing) is a natural dyeing technique that allows you to imprint images of leaves, plants, and flowers directly on protein fibers using a water bath process. In this class, you'll start by making a dye blanket (to add background color) and then create "sandwiches" of silk fabric, botanicals, and your dye blanket to print your yardage. In the process, you'll also learn about acid dyes and how to bundle yardage to process it efficiently. You'll leave with 6 yards of printed silk fabric – enough to create unique clothing or home decor items and the knowledge you'll need to continue using this natural and sustainable art form! We will use Jacquard dyes.

.Supply fees will vary depending on workshop options of 1 or 2 days.

One Day Workshop: \$50.00 supply fee

Instructor supplies 2 yards of 45" silk and the use of her already dyed blankets as well as all equipment and disposables (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, rubber bands, plastic) mordants, use of multiple pre-dyed color blankets and sections to create their color collages, and information and summary sheets.

Two Day Workshop: \$70.00 supply fee

Instructor supplies 4 yards of 45" silk. Students learn to mix and dye their own yardage for dye blankets enabling them to continue at home. All equipment and disposables (turkey roasters, dowels, twine, baskets, scissors, paper towels, latex gloves, rubber bands, plastic) mordants, use of multiple pre-dyed color blankets and sections to create their color collages, and information and summary sheets.

To Bring: For either class, Students should

- 1 gallon empty water jug to use as a weight. (can be filled at class)
- Leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and flat flowers such as daises. No thick or woody plants or waxy leaves such as camellia or magnolia. Leaves can be fresh, pressed or dry. Dry leaves need to be re-hydrated 30 minutes prior to using them.



Figure 11 finished ecoprinted yardage



Figure 12 Large Scale Workshop



Figure 13 Large scale ecoprinting

10. Easy Dye Silk Scarves

This can be a **1/2 day or full day** workshop. Suitable for ages 10 and up

Create your own beautiful abstract designs on silk scarves. No need to steam or heat set with the specially formulated, safe dyes. You'll leave with 2 ready to wear pure silk scarves that you designed using the techniques learned in the workshop. Suitable for all ages including children ages 10 and up.

To Bring: Students do not need to bring anything

Supply fee: \$25 supply fee for ½ day covers the 2 silk scarves as well as all the needed supplies such as paper towels, table coverings, latex gloves, pipettes and use of 8 assorted colors of dye. \$30.00 supply fee for all day class. Student leaves with 3 finished silk scarves designed by them.



11. Leather and Silk Crossbody Clutch

This is a **2 day** class

Ecoprint on Leather and Silk Noil to create the designs to make your own cross body clutch bag! This no sew rigid case designed clutch is a unique opportunity for students to create and complete a beautiful project in two days!

Students will learn how to ecoprint on sections of lambskin, silk and silk noil to create the exterior design and interior designs for their leather and silk clutch! Ecoprinting (also known as botanical printing) involves collecting leaves, plants and flowers to imprint their images directly upon their leather with techniques learned in the workshop. AT the end of the two day workshop, students will leave with a finished crossbody clutch and additional ecoprinted leather and silk ready to create additional projects.

- **To Bring:** Students should bring leaves from their area such as oak, maples, rose, hickory, sumac and interesting weeds. Fun additional plants (usually store bought) are live eucalyptus and daisy type flowers. No thick or waxy plants although stems attached to leaves are fine. Fresh or pressed or dry. Dry leaves will be re-hydrated.
- **Supply Fee:** *\$50.00 material fee for the 2 day class: Except for local leaves, the instructor provides everything else to teach the class: Lambskin leather, silk habatoi, silk noil, rigid case clutch, matching snake chain, all operating and processing equipment (turkey roasters, wood dowels, fabric strips, twine, plastic, mordants, scissors, latex gloves, use of pre-dyed (by instructor) blankets for color. Information and resource sheets.



Figure 14 Silk Noil and Leather Crossbody Clutch Bags



Figure 15 Ecoprinted Silk clutch bag

Additional Information about me, upcoming events and workshops can be found:

- Website www.TheSilkthread.com
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/thesilkthread
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/thesilkthreadart
- YouTube: www.Youtube.com/c/thesilkthread

Theresa@thesilkthread

919-880-7431

2109 Old Mill Farm Rd, Franklinton, North Carolina 27525

Plenty of References upon Request!