

The Fabric of Protest

July 2021



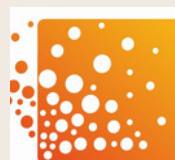
A monthly textile workshop by People's History Museum (PHM) and artist Helen Mather. Learn new techniques and discuss the issues that matter to you.

This resource introduces some of the ideas and techniques that will be explored during the online workshop on Saturday 31 July 2021. Use it to prepare for the workshop or as inspiration for your own textile projects.

Recommended for 11+ (under 18s must have an accompanying adult present during the session).

#FabricOfProtest **phm.org.uk**

The More in Common project and exhibition are part of CultureLabs, receiving funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.



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More in Common project



Inspired by the legacy of Jo Cox MP, PHM's More in Common project involves a group of over 30 people from different backgrounds who made Manchester their home, coming together to share knowledge, experiences, and conversations.

Co-created by the project group, the exhibition More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox explores Jo's life and legacy and follows the group on their journey in celebrating our commonality and challenging discrimination. Inspired by Jo's words, 'We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us'.

Find out more ▼

Use the links below to find out more about PHM's More in Common project and More in Common from the Jo Cox Foundation.

- [PHM More in Common project](#)
- [More in Common from Jo Cox Foundation](#)
- [Access the More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox exhibition online](#)

Threads That Bind Us



In this and previous workshops we have been looking at clothing and identity, inspired by the costumes created for the 'Threads That Bind Us' display in the More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox exhibition. This display has been created by a group of four artists with the support of artist Ibukun Baldwin.

The costumes were created as part of PHM's More in Common project, they explore the past, present and future through the eyes of Manchester's diverse population, and its roots in colonialism through the cotton trade and fashion industries.

The group shared these words about their work:

'Gathering inspiration from the heritage found in our cultural clothing and our hopes for the future as a gathered people, the costumes take us on a journey through the negative effects of colonialism, coming together as a diverse people from all over the world, growing, learning and launching into a colourful new future as a unified people.'

Inspiration: 1

Pirates of the Colonial Empire, by Brett Dearden, 2021

'This shirt style represents colonialism, which from my perspective was just shameful national piracy conducted with a flag and a tailored uniform.

The jewelled belt represents taken resources and the colour reflects the bloodshed caused.

The fabric was a gift from my friend, Ruth Jones, and was produced and purchased in India'.



This is a pirate style shirt with a laced up v-neck opening which has a large frill collar and full length puff sleeves with cuffs. The material used in the shirt is viscose, it has a green background colour with a yellow and orange floral pattern. There is a satin burgundy belt tied around the waist.

Inspiration: 2

Thriving Flamboyance, by Anuarita Morel, 2021

'This coat represents the idea of flourishing from a devastating past.

The main shape seems to be falling apart, however all of its ornaments help to reconnect the piece together in order to create a thriving future.

The golden armour is the strength that emerges from the power of growth and unity'.



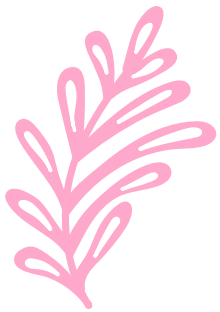
This piece consists of a waist length cotton coat with large puff full length sleeves which have cut outs above the elbow. The coat has a white background with orange trim; green linear and orange and red circular floral fabric shapes are sewn all across it. A large gold wire gridded frame surrounds the cotton coat, this has yellow, green and pink felt bows attached.

Floral prints



In this month's workshop we will be taking inspiration from two pieces: Brett Dearden's *Pirates of the Colonial Empire* and Anuarita Morel's *Thriving Flamboyance*.

Considering the impact that industrialisation has had on people, place and environment, and reflecting on the idea of flourishing from a devastating past, we will be printing from nature; looking forward to a more sustainable future with nature as a point of healing.



We will connect to our local environment by gathering leaves, flowers, weeds, grass and use these to produce prints using a pounding technique called Hapazome, releasing natural pigments into fabric.

Prepare



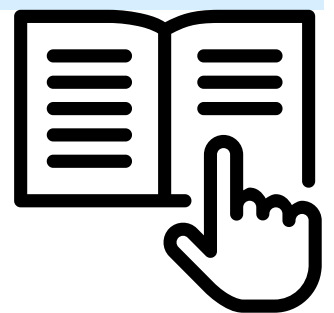
To prepare before the workshop you might want to:

- Consider what flowers, leaves grass or weeds you would like to use from your local environment and what pattern you could create to represent the emergence of a thriving future.
- Read more about creating prints from nature and the Hapazome technique in the links below.

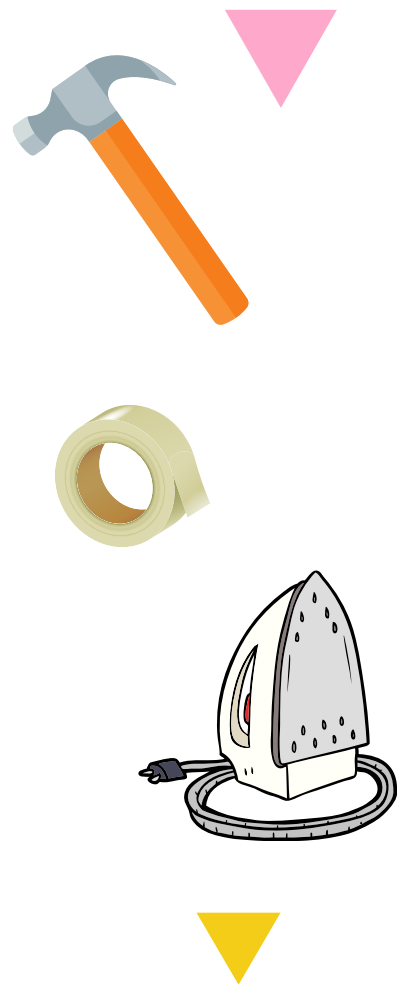
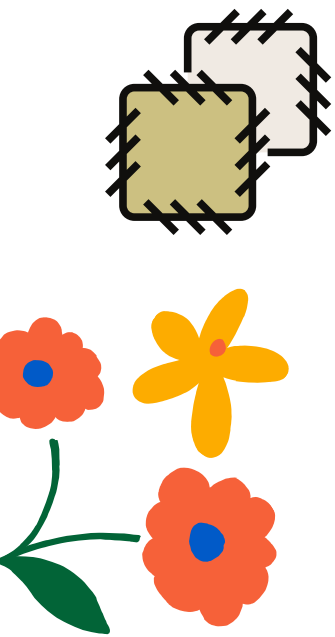
[Rebecca Desnos is a natural dyer and has some great tips and advice for people interested in using nature to create prints, dyes and inks](#)

[Learn about techniques for printing a table cloth](#)

[Find out more about eco printing and the Hapazome technique](#)



Materials



Gather some materials from around your home.

You will need:

- **Fabric:** a piece of white or light coloured fabric, preferably a natural fabric such as cotton, it could even be a hanky. Any size will do, but a minimum 20cm x 20cm.
- **Masking tape**
- **Flowers, leaves, grass, weeds:** take a walk and see what you can find around your streets! They will need to be fresh, so pick them within a day of the workshop.
- **Hammer:** if you don't have a hammer use something with some weight that you can handle easily, perhaps a small glass, bottle or jar.
- **Kitchen cutting board or thick card:** to protect the surface you will work on.
- **Towel:** (optional) if you want to dampen the noise.
- **Iron:** not essential but will help set the print.

Designing your print



1 You will need to do this on a smooth hard surface such as a wooden table or sideboard.

Use a wooden block, kitchen cutting board or piece of thick card on the surface to protect the table.

You could use a towel under the cutting board to dampen the noise!

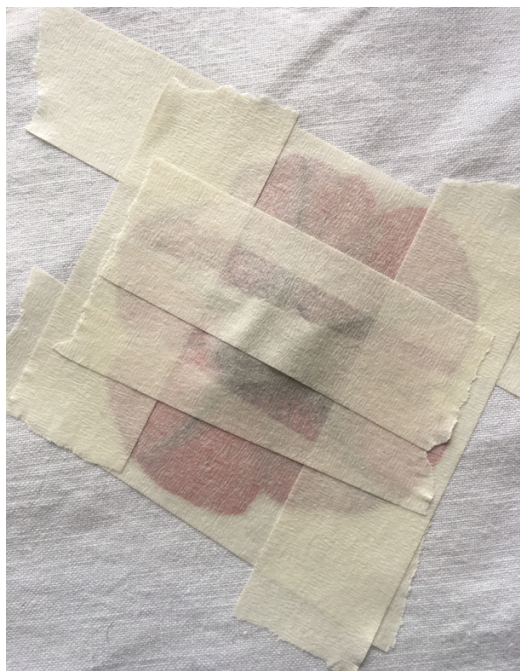
2 Place your flowers or leaves face down on the front surface of the fabric in a pattern that you like.

You can either put them on all at once or add them one by one, pounding one at a time to produce your pattern.



Creating your print

3



Use the masking tape to hold the flowers/leaves in place individually, covering each one entirely.

4

Turn the fabric over and begin to pound on the reverse side of the fabric to release the pigment (colour) from the flowers/leaves. Keep going until you feel you have got all the colour out.



5

Turn the fabric back to the front and peel off the tape to reveal your print! (The taped flower also looks brilliant – maybe there's something you could do with this?)



6

Repeat the process with each flower/leaf to create your pattern.





7 When the print is dry place a piece of fabric over the top and iron to set the print.



This print is not completely fixed and will fade with washing and exposure to sunlight.

If you want to use this technique for another project that you will wash, you could look at mordanting your fabric, this means preparing your fabric to absorb more dye (see the links on Page 6 for further advice) which will help fix the dyes more.

Join us on Zoom to get creative

If you would like to join artist Helen Mather and others to stitch, chat and share ideas inspired by this resource, [book onto the online Zoom workshop.](#)

Don't forget to bring a cuppa!

This month we'll be online on **Saturday 31 July 2021,**
2.00pm - 3.30pm.



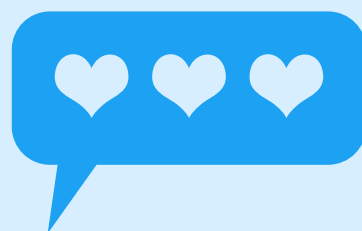
Share what you have created!

We would love to see what you have created!

If you use social media, please share photos of your creations using #FabricOfProtest.



Or if you prefer you can email a photo of your creation to learning@phm.org.uk.



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