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**APPLICATION OF NATURE PRINT ON FABRIC**

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# CHAPTER ONE

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Nature covers all sorts of living and nonliving elements on earth in physical, natural and material world. Mother Nature, in general, means nature, physical, earth or world including the universe. "Nature" is referring to physical world phenomena or in general, the life. Nature is a Latin or Greek word Physis which originally literally means intrinsic characteristics of plants, animals, and other elements that evolved on their own. Nature or in general, the universe, is a evolution of the original thought. (Alam, 2015).

Printmaking is the art of creating print. To make a print, an artist first creates an image on a surface called a printing plate. The print is made when the artist transfer the image from the plate onto a piece of paper. The cool thing about printmaking is that can often make many prints from each plate. A printing plate can be made of various materials. Wood, stone, metal, leaf, and fabric are just a few examples. The methods used to create an image on the plate are different for each type of printmaking. The four major types of printmaking are relief, intaglio, stencil, and planographic. (creativity takes courage, Henri Matisse)

Nature printing is a printing process, developed in the 18th century that uses the plants, animals, rocks and other natural subjects to produce an image. The subject undergoes several stages to give a direct impression onto materials such as lead, gum, and photographic plates, which are then used in the printing process. (Nature, 2014)

Nature printing is an ingenious method of printing pictures of natural things such as leaves, seaweed and even snake skin. It differed from most other printing methods as it used the object itself, where as other printing methods involved an artist sketching the image onto a printing plate. Nature printed images are superbly detailed and life-like. The object, for example an attractive fern frond, was put between a sheet of lead and steel. These were pressed very hard together. This made a very detailed and accurate impression of the object in the lead sheet (Fine Rare Prints, 2015)

Nature printing relied on a simple physics. When an object, like a leaf or piece of lace, was placed between a steel plate and a lead place, and subsequently squeezed under tremendous pressure, the lead plate took an exact impression from the object. The resultant printed image was startlingly realistic, reproducing the most minute details of the original in absolutely smooth continuous tones. The effect was greatly enhanced by the fact that the printed image sat on the surface of the paper, so that it appeared as though the original object itself laid there. (Tempting the Pallete, David Pankow)

The creation of nature print needs natural resources namely from plants, vegetables, minerals, animals and insects. In the making of nature print, the usage of other materials is needed as mordant. Among the examples of usable mordents are alum, chalk or lime, ginger, turmeric and rust. The usage of mordant is essential in order to preserve the colors and shapes created using the nature printing. Other than that, mordents are needed in the absorption process into fabric. The usage of mordant in nature print also helps in altering the colors in the saturation, making the color brighter, saturated, or even maintaining the original color. The usage of different kind of mordant will leads to different effects on the color.

This research focuses on the creation of nature print using the vegetables and plants. There are various sorts of plants that can be used in nature print as it is to obtain shapes and colors from all sort of resources. Among the plants that will be used in this research are; spinach, parsley, pennywort leaves, and white lead tree. The reason of using various kinds of plants in the research is to know the shapes, color extractions and the retention of the color once they have been absorbed into the fabric. The fabric that will be used in the research is going to be solely cotton fabric because cotton fabric is a natural cellulose fiber, which means it has a lot of characters, such as color retention, it drapes well, dry-cleanable and it also prints well. The color on the cotton will be an important element in evaluating the cotton or any other fabric in general.

## 1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Currently, common printing techniques are intaglio, stencil, planography, digital printing, screen printing, and hand printing and have become the favourites due to their economic value meaning to say it is cheap and it is vastly readily available. There are not many that actually know the existence of a printing technique that uses natural resources called nature printing. Nature printing is however known to, and acknowledged by its enthusiasts and perhaps some printing business owners or developers.

To many, the nature printing is only up to be used as blocks and to obtain certain natural-element touch by using the synthetic colors as the main ingredient of the mold. The nature printing is not widely practiced by the printing industry because it is perceived as something that is tedious, time consuming and some are taking it as an old technique that only used to get some interesting and unique colors. In addition to that, the production process itself is a problem in the creation of nature printing as it is in fact a time-consuming process that does not favor the help of up-to-date, modern machinery and technologies. The color preservative is very important in printing process because the preservative ingredients are used to preserve the colors from fading and keeping them at their original hue and saturation obtained from their natural resources. Among the preservative that can be used are lime, alum, cooper and iron. The usage of the preservative ingredients must follow its own measurement.

This is because the over addition of preservative will eventually create patches and will cause uneven color spread on the products. Known to less, the nature printing uses natural resources as its main ingredient in the production of its layer in