

# PLANT THIS PRINT

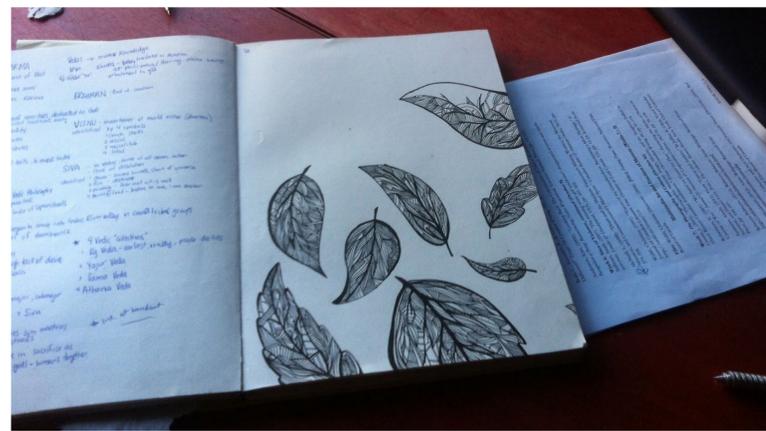
## A SUSTAINABLE PRINT SERIES

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CLASS: DART 391 - DISCURSIVE DESIGN RESEARCH

PROFESSOR: PK LANGSHAW

PROJECT: CREATE A PRINT SERIES USING SILKSCREEN PRINTING METHODS



Concept sketches

Starting with the idea of positive littering, we conceptualized a process that would embed soil nutrients within paper, which we would then print on with biodegradable, non-toxic ink. By adding nutrients to the paper, we were able to create a printed piece of art that is both visually captivating and beneficial to the environment.

We decided that our series would exist to challenge citizens of Montreal (and beyond) to think twice about careless littering within our shared environment by creating a beautiful paper product that, when discarded, actually benefits the soil it lands on.

Instead of using traditional silk screen paint, which is toxic, we decided to use a product called milk paint, which is an organic paint containing basic ingredients including milk protein (casein), limestone, clay and natural pigments. It arrived in powder form and can be mixed to desired consistency.



Pulling milk paint through the screen



Milk paint in powder form

Printing with eco-safe, biodegradable ink on non-toxic, biodegradable paper, we were able to create prints that were not only sustainable but actually beneficial to the environment. Interacting with our print conjures a thoughtful process, you will not only be guilt free upon discarding the object but you will be benefiting the ground on which it is thrown.

My specific role in this project was to focus mainly on the biodegradable paint. After sourcing a place in Ontario called Homestead House that sold milk paint, I placed a small order of a few colours and, once they arrived, I began to experiment with the paint. It was in powder form and by mixing it with water it would turn to a paint-like consistency but wasn't quite thick enough to be used for silk screening. Our teaching assistant recommended that we use a bit of natural thickener to get the desired consistency and this worked perfectly, giving us the exact consistency we needed to force the paint through the screens.



Showing the milk paint change color after adding water



Prints drying after silk screening

The paper used for our project is created out of 100% recycled material. We used an assortment of old homework, agendas, and course packs to recycle into our new project. When blending the paper into a pulp we included lawn seed so the paper, once planted, would eventually sprout into grass.

By combining the natural milk paint with the rough texture of the paper a consistent aesthetic emerged. The prints looked like a cohesive series and yet each one was entirely unique.



A finished print