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Amate Paintings

Materials

Brown Paper Bag or Kraft Paper	Pencil	Paint
Paint Brush		



Background Information

The material for Amate paper comes from several different trees, like the Mulberry tree.

Amate paper was used to record the history of the Maya in the time before the Spanish conquest. For this reason, the paper was believed to be sacred.

The tree bark is stripped, soaked and boiled, pulled into strips, placed over each other, and then pounded together. Amate art became popular folk art that detailed simple images like village scenes, flowers, and animals.

Procedure

1. Rip the paper bag so that it is a flat sheet.
2. Fold and rip off excess until you have a rectangle shape at the size of your choice.
3. Crumple the sheet tightly, then spread it flat.
4. Decide on your design and use a pencil to draw the basic shapes. Don't add too much detail.
5. Paint the basic forms using bright colors.
6. Add outlines and details in different colors.



Tips

- Keep the designs simple.
- If the pencil marks are too light to see, use a white coloring pencil.
- Let the paint dry before adding another layer in a different color.
- Outline the images using a black coloring pencil or marker.



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