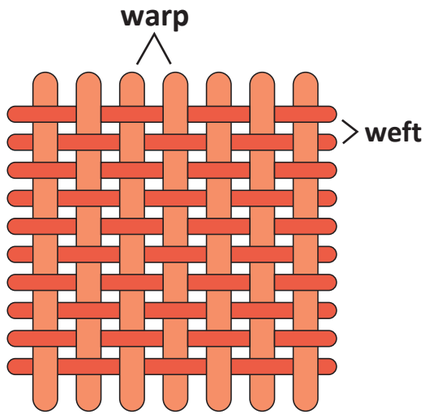
Beautiful Botanicals

Weaving



Weaving is a way to make fabric using yarn. Threads of yarn are hung vertically from a frame called a loom. These are called the warp. Then, threads of yarn are fed horizontally over and under each warp thread so that they cross at right angles. This is called the weft.

Evidence of weaving on looms can be seen in the ancient civilisations of Egypt and China. It can also be seen in British Stone Age settlements.

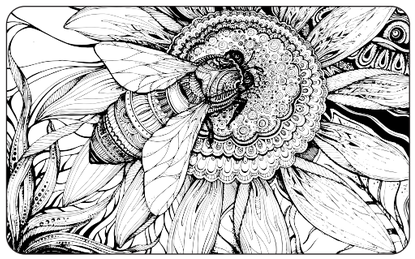
Botanical weaving

Botanical weaving uses natural materials, such as grasses, leaves or fronds. Looms are made from sticks with a woollen or string warp. Natural materials are passed under and over the warp to act as the weft. Botanical weavings can be decorated with other natural materials, such as flowers or berries.

Botanical art

A botanical artist is someone who draws and paints plants. They observe the plants' parts very closely to make sure all the details are recorded accurately. Botanical art is useful for botanists, who use the images to identify plants.

Some contemporary botanical art includes more simplified graphic or digital representations.



Botanical art is often used on decorative items, such as wallpaper, greetings cards and pottery.

Printing

Printing is the process of transferring ink or paint from one surface to another.

In unit printing, an ink roller is used to cover the object in ink or paint. A piece of paper is pressed on top to transfer the ink or paint.

In lino printing, the artist carves an image into a lino board. The raised surface catches the ink or paint, which is then transferred onto a piece of paper.

Glossary

botanical	Something related to the study of plants.
botanist	A scientist who studies plants.
frond	The leaf or leaf-like part of a palm, fern or bracken plant.
illustration	A picture or drawing.
lino	A flat, rubber-like material into which a pattern can be carved.
loom	A piece of equipment used to make fabric by weaving.
weaving	The process of making fabric by crossing warp and weft threads.