

## pd packard: creating a collograph plate

I typically use an etching press for printmaking. For "THE EXPRESSION" (seen in its finished form in *The Mixed-Media Artist* by Seth Apter), however, I used a collagraph plate to produce subtle ground and relief patterns on the paper. My collagraph plates are made from plant life and insects that I have collected from my garden and the woods from wherever I travel. They're dried and flattened between blotter paper, in phone books and a small book press.



1. I began by selecting assorted dried plant life from my collection.



2. The dried plant life was glued down with PVA (polyvinyl acetate) onto bookbinding board.



3. The finished plate was covered with varnish (shellac or polyurethane would have worked, as well) to make it waterproof.



4. The next step was to create the color story for "THE EXPRESSION" by selecting ink colors.



5. The plate was inked with a brayer and I used a stiff brush to push the ink into the relief.



6. I printed a layer of each color using the same collagraph plate on a very pale, avocado green ground. This is the finished collagraph print that was used for "THE EXPRESSION".



7. The graphics for the print "THE EXPRESSION" were computer designed. I then gave the design to a company that laser cuts things out of plexi. The cut plexi was then glued down to styrene (backwards) to make a printing plate.



8. The plate was inked with a 10" (25cm) brayer to get a large, even layer of ink. Once inked, the laser cut plexi plate was ready to be printed.

PD Packard is a spotlight artist featured in *The Mixed-Media Artist* by Seth Apter. See more of PD's work at [www.pdpackard.com](http://www.pdpackard.com)