



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | www.miravenhill.org
info@miravenhill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Amate Bark Paintings

Amate is a type of pounded bark paper that has been manufactured in Mexico, since at least 75 CE (formerly AD). It is similar to the development of rice paper in China and papyrus in Egypt. The Otomi people began producing the paper commercially in the mid-1900's and selling it in cities such as Mexico City, where the paper was revived by Nahua painters to create a "new" indigenous craft. Nahua paintings of the paper, which is also called "amate," are well-known. To make an Amate Bark Painting you will need a paper lunch sack or other light-weight brown paper bag, colored markers, black marker, paraffin wax (a candle will work) and an iron (use with supervision or have your adult do this step). Cut the bottom off the paper bag and slit it open, so you have a flat piece of brown paper. Divide into thirds. Wad a piece up into a ball. Open it up and wad it up again. Repeat this over and over. Eventually, the paper will become soft and pliable. Open it up and draw birds and flowers or other objects in bright colors. Once your drawing is done, outline everything with the black marker. Use paraffin or a candle to coat your entire drawing with wax. Place the drawing in between 2 larger paper bags to absorb the wax and keep it off the iron. Iron your drawing. The wax will highlight the folds in your drawing and create a look like the pounded bark in a real Amate Bark Painting. Enjoy your new artistic creation.



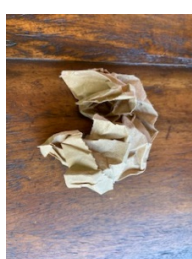
Actual amate



1 Supplies



2 Open lunch sack



3 Wad up sack



4 Open up sack



5 Repeat #3 & #4 'til soft



6 Design



7 Outline all in black



8 Coat with wax



9 Put between grocery sack



10 Iron to melt wax



11 Frame or make card