

Dorothy Churchill-Johnson & Leaf Rubbings



Dorothy Churchill-Johnson, *Evidence of Change*, 2001, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches, BMoA Permanent Collection 2008.12.01. Gift of the Artist, 2008

California based Dorothy Churchill-Johnson noticed early on that her strength in art laid in her drawing abilities. Since then, she has continuously strived to integrate her skill into expanding the understanding of hard-edge realism in painting – a style that realistically renders its subjects but is also characterized by an application of solid or flat color. In *Evidence of Change*, Churchill-Johnson centers her attention to a single withering leaf and the fence on which its stem sits. Her subjects exist in the moment while creating a barrier for a landscape the viewer cannot traverse. The scrupulous hand of the artist denotes beauty of the minute, and even lackluster for some, highlighting the inherent qualities of nature while signaling a transformation of one's inner self.

This piece was added to BMoA's permanent collection at the conclusion of the artist's 2008 exhibition: *Transcendental Observation: The Paintings of Dorothy Churchill-Johnson*



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Rubbings are methods to reproduce something with a textured surface by placing a paper over the surface and rubbing media on the paper with an even pressure. The medium will reproduce the raised surfaces and the recessed surface will appear as negative space. Rubbings can be made with a variety of media; pencil, charcoal, and crayon are most popular, but rolled ink, or chalk will work. The act and the final product are both called rubbings.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place your leaves or plant debris on an even surface with the underside/textured part of the leaf facing up. Place your paper on top of them. Be mindful, the thicker the paper is, the less detail you will capture.
2. Using your crayon or pastel, rub it on top of the paper over the leaf. For a more regular line, use the side of the pastel or crayon. (You might need to peel the paper covering off of your pastel or crayon first.)
3. Repeat with different colors of crayon or pastel, varying the amount of pressure you use to get different effects from each color.
4. For an abstract effect, lift your paper and move your leaves, repeating the rubbing on different parts of the paper.

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Leaves & plant debris (twigs)
- Crayons or Pastels

