

TREES AND FLOWERS

How we started working?



TREES



Looking around, seeing and feeling the trees outside our school for it is on a hill near a small forest. Talking about different images and changes that happen during the seasons. Imagining really being a small tree among all those trees we saw and then trying to draw it our way with ink.

The children are already familiar with this technique from first grade and I must say really good at it. After finishing the first part – drawing with ink - we talked about bringing color to the picture using water colors.

- Green – said most of my pupils - and then maybe different shades of green by adding yellow and blue.
- Why?
- Because the sun is yellow and the sky is blue and it all gives us a new green to think of.

Letting the picture dry we thought it would be good to mark our own footsteps with small pieces of newspaper just to remind us why trees are so important to all of us. The children loved doing it without thinking that it nearly took us three school classes to finish it all. But it was fun seeing the result.

FLOWERS



After doing trees the children asked me to do something simple with them. Think they got tired in the end and really wanted something simple and easy to draw. When I asked them – How about flowers, they just didn't like it. The girls loved the idea of drawing flowers, but the boys didn't.

– Flowers.... ??? - they said in a strange voice.

– Flowers – I said, a great bunch of flowers.

Then I added more information and that made them feel interested

– How can we do it? – was the first question.

Being above a big, big field, flying and counting them by drawing them. We started working and I just left them to fill the paper with lot's of different shapes. They just played drawing and talking about flowers and were very busy about it. The color came after just like a touch of wind. They preferred doing it with water pens. Some of them added a little water to it all. Putting the works together made them feel very proud of so much flowers in our classroom. Even if it looks like a great print coming in different variations it was a good experience for all of us.

TREE WITH FLOWERS



The last part of working on the same theme. Rather say – what comes together after doing it separately. Why not? A tree is always a tree, a flower a flower. But what if a tree wishes to be a flower and opposite? Can it grow into something new – a treeflower? And that just happened out of nowhere but their own imagination and I liked it. It was quick and it was easy because they just knew what to do.

A LITTLE ABOUT US



We live in Zagreb, Croatia, Europe. Our school, Primary school Medvedgrad, is small but has a big number of children and we work in three different shifts (morning, middle of the day and afternoon). Yes, we have a problem of space but got used to this problem over years. Our classroom is never our own, and that is a problem to us. We are now finishing our second year at school. Our class has 22 pupils (11 girls and 11 boys). Working with us is our teacher Darja Mrdjen and she will be with us till fourth grade.

ABOUT ME



My name is Darja Mrdjen and I was born 1960. in Zagreb, Croatia. My first education started in Africa, Ghana, Kumasi and continued in Zagreb. Here I finished School of fine arts and later The teachers Academy. From 1983. I work as a teacher in Primary School Medvedgrad, doing all subjects from first to fourth grade. Working with kids makes me happy and I love my job. I also work as an expert assistant on TV, childrens programs, art work of my own, draw and write.