

Althea McNish

Althea McNish was a textile designer from Trinidad. She came to the UK in the 1950s and went on to become a world renowned textile designer. Her designs were featured in magazines including Vogue and were used to make fabrics for Liberty and Heal's.

Althea's designs were often inspired by her Caribbean roots and featured bold and bright colours and patterns.

Why not try creating your own printed designs. You can do this on paper or try it on fabric.

You will need

Pencils
Poster or fabric paints
Paper or fabric
Paintbrushes
Paper plate or paint palette
Sponges/stamps or potatoes
Knife or scissors
Apron

Caution: Adult assistance and supervision will be required when completing this craft!

Tip: If using fabric paint follow instructions on the bottle for how to use and wash fabric and protect clothes by wearing an apron.

1

Choose your pattern or design. What shapes, patterns, images inspire you? You could do a repeating pattern or place your design randomly. Start by preparing your paper or fabric by placing it on a flat surface.

Tip: Start with a simple design, such as lines or circles and plan it out on paper first before you start printing.

2

Take your sponge or potato and cut it into the stamp size of your choice. Ask an adult to help you cut out your pattern or design to make your stamp.

Tip: You can draw your pattern in pencil first to follow the lines. Make sure an adult helps you when cutting.

3

Once you are happy with your design choose your paint colours and pour small amounts of paint onto a paper plate or palette.

Carefully dip your stamp into the paint or use a paintbrush to apply your paint, making sure your stamp is evenly covered. Line up your stamp and carefully press it onto your fabric or paper applying light pressure.

Tip: Make sure you don't have too much paint on your stamp.

4

Continue to stamp your design onto your paper/fabric until you have completed your pattern or design. Once confident, try making other stamps with different shapes and patterns.

Tip: If you are using multiple stamps and colours use paper towels to wipe off any excess paint to avoid mixing colours.

