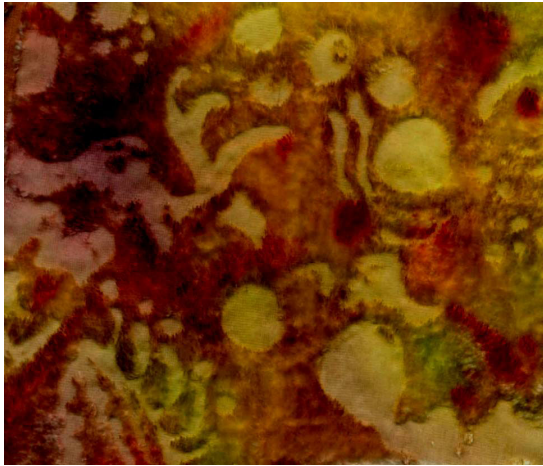


A Makeover For Your Velvet There is more to that Sensuous Velvet Than You Thought

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Have you ever gone through your stash of rayon-silk velvets wishing that they offered you more variation in surface texture, color and design? I certainly have. This desire to create my own unique velvets to make one of a kind costuming elements for my art dolls and various accessories to wear brought me to investigating ways in which I could go about manipulating the velvet surface easily with readily available supplies to use in my studio. I began my research by reading several books on embellishing and fabric manipulation and found several very interesting and easy techniques to use. I will speak of four techniques that can be used separately or in combination. These are Dye, fiber etching, embossing and stamping the velvet surface.

Before getting into the actual project itself there is some important information necessary for you to know about the chemistry by which Devore or fabric etching is accomplished. Devore is a chemical method by which fibers are removed from fabric. Fiber-Etch is a commercial gel product that destroys the plant based cellulose fibers in

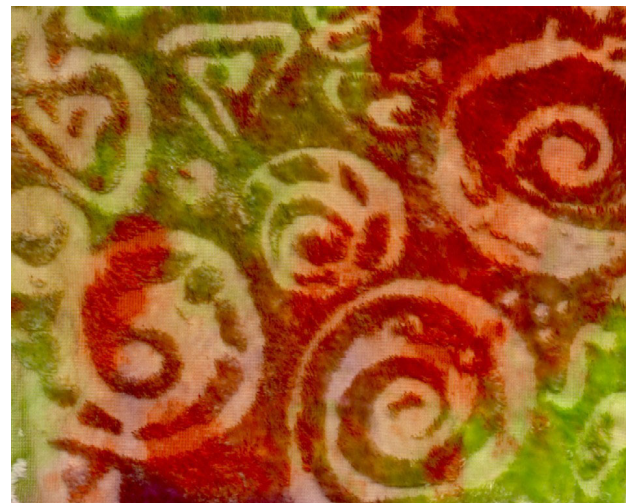
certain fabrics and fabric blends such as: rayon-silk velvet, rayon-wool, silk-linen, rayon-silk, polyester-cotton, 100% cotton, linen, and rayon. Silk and wool are protein fibers from animals and will not be removed by this gel. You may apply this same information to sewing threads as it relates to embroidery and free-motion machine sewing when combined with the technique of fabric etching.

It is advisable to pre-wash and pre-shrink fabrics before working on them to remove any surface residue and an advantage to this is that the resulting item will be washable after fiber etching.

Dyeing Velvet - Supplies

White or light colored Rayon-silk velvet.

Set of Setacolor or similar Transparent Paint for Fabrics, paintbrushes in several sizes, hairdryer, spray water bottle, freezer paper, rags, several small cups to mix various colors



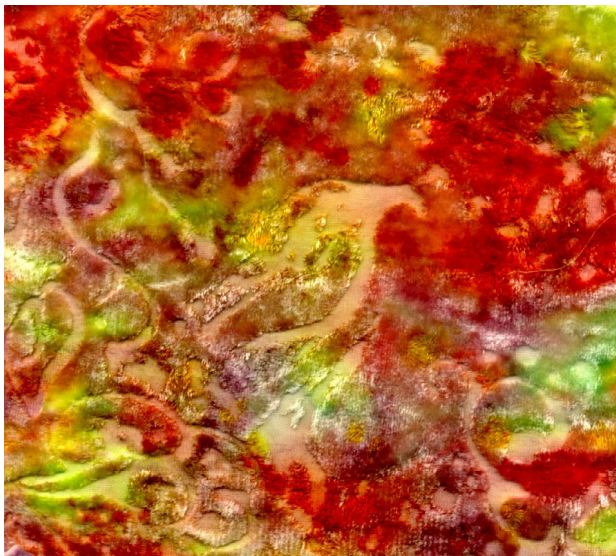
Method – Place a small piece of velvet pile side facing up onto a double layer of freezer paper to protect work surface below. Use spray bottle to dampen velvet. I used Setacolor. Mix several colors in small cups. Using paintbrushes apply areas of color in random or specific patterns. You can apply one color over another and let them blend

and color mix. I recommend you use intense color as the dyed fabric will dry lighter after processing. Once you have arrived at a pleasing composition either air-dry velvet outdoors or dry carefully with hairdryer in constant motion. Place dry velvet in an empty clothes dryer set to high heat and tumble dry for about 20 minutes to set the dyes. Rinse dry velvet in sink with cold running water until water runs clear. Now run through dryer until completely dry and pile is soft and fluffy. This technique of dyeing will not alter the hand of the velvet.

You now have your own uniquely dyed velvet to use as is or you may now choose to go on to the next step, Fiber Etching.

Etching Rayon-silk Velvet – Supplies

Hand dyed or store bought piece of Rayon-Silk Velvet, Fiber Etch Fabric Remover, freezer paper, hairdryer.



Method – Place your dry, dyed velvet wrong side facing up on a double layer of freezer paper. Follow manufacturer's directions on bottle and apply a thin layer of Fiber Etch gel to the wrong side of the fabric in a specific design or random pattern leaving wide and narrow areas of untouched fabric. Using the squeeze bottle tip you can draw and apply gel

at the same time to create dots, circles, lines, zigzags, leaves, faces and more. Air dry or carefully dry with hairdryer in constant motion keeping heat source at least 5" off fabric surface to avoid overheating silk backing. When Fiber Etch is dry place your fabric in a clothes dryer set at high heat and tumble dry for about 35 minutes. Test pile side periodically with your fingernail to see if the fiber etched areas have become brittle and fall away exposing the silk backing beneath. Once this occurs rinse velvet in cool water rubbing gently to remove all of the brittle fibers. Squeeze out excess water and tumble dry again until pile is fluffy. You now have a fabric uniquely colored and whose surface is varied in texture and pattern with high areas of velvet pile and transparent low areas of the silk backing. You may want to push surface embellishing even further now with another step or two, Embossing and Stamping.

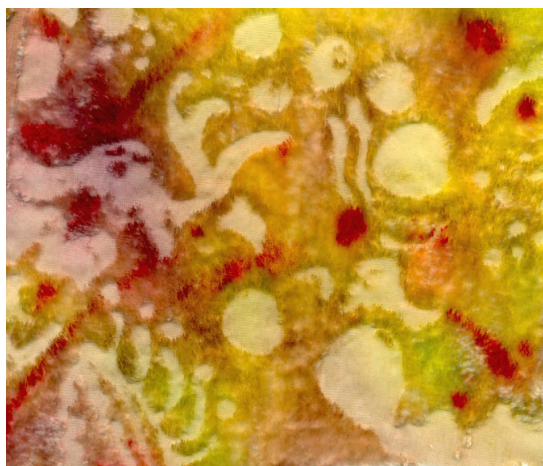
Embossing & Stamping the Velvet Surface –

Supplies – Rayon-silk velvet, rubber stamps with bold patterns, water spray bottle, dry iron, ironing board, metallic & opaque fabric paints, small foam brushes, press Cloth



Method for Embossing– place a rubber stamp design side face up on ironing board. Position velvet with pile side facing down onto design surface of the stamp. Spray backside of the

velvet with water and press iron firmly without moving over the velvet covered stamp area for 15 to 20 seconds. Lift iron and move velvet to another section for embossing keeping the same or using a different stamp to emboss with. You may also use a wire cooling rack or other wire grid design to emboss it's pattern onto the velvet. Embossing is also a wonderful technique to use on Rayon-blend velvet ribbons.



Method for Stamping- Position fabric velvet pile side up over padded work surface made with towels or old cloths. Pour some fabric paint into a container and dip foam brush about 1/2" into paint. Apply a thin coat of paint to surface of the selected stamp then press the stamp firmly and steady onto the surface of the velvet. Lift stamp off the fabric slowly. Repeat these steps with the same or different stamps using different colors by repositioning stamps to various areas of your fabric. You can also over print and overlap colors with these stamped images. When completed let the paint cure following label instructions of the brand you used (usually 24 to 48 hours). After paint has cured, it is recommended for velvets that you heat-set the cured paint with pile side face down on padded surface or Velva board. Place a press cloth over the backside of velvet before

pressing with dry hot iron. If the surrounding pile has flattened during pressing, dampen velvet and run through clothes dryer to fluff.

Resources: Here are a few of many wonderful places to obtain supplies. Setacolor paint for fabric by Pebeo, Dharma Trading Co. dyes, velvet, silk, fabric paints ready made clothing to dye, <http://www.dharmatrading.com/>. Things Japanese for threads, fabrics, dyes <http://www.silkthings.com/>, Stamps: various hobby and craft shops, Paints: Lumiere metallic & pearl- permanent, dry cleanable & flexible by Jacquard , Metallic & Shimmering Pearls by SoSoft Fabric Paints. Fiber Etch Fabric Remover from Silkpaint Corp. www.silkpaint.com.

Bibliography: Fabric Etching by Iris Lee, pub. Dragon Threads, Embellishments A to Z by Staphanie Valley pub. Taunton Press, HGTV Carol Duvall show #337 Embossed Velvet.

