

# Sunflowers for a War Zone

Maggie Grey



My piece for the Ukraine appeal was based on Bev Caleno's workshop in WOWbook 08. I love using Tyvek and this looked like fun. However, my background technique is slightly different and I've explored hand stitching.

## Materials

S80 Vilene

Tissue paper

Bondaweb (fusible webbing)

BondFX or Mistyfuse fusible webbing

PVA (diluted with a little with water)

A4 piece of fabric Tyvek (not the paper variety)

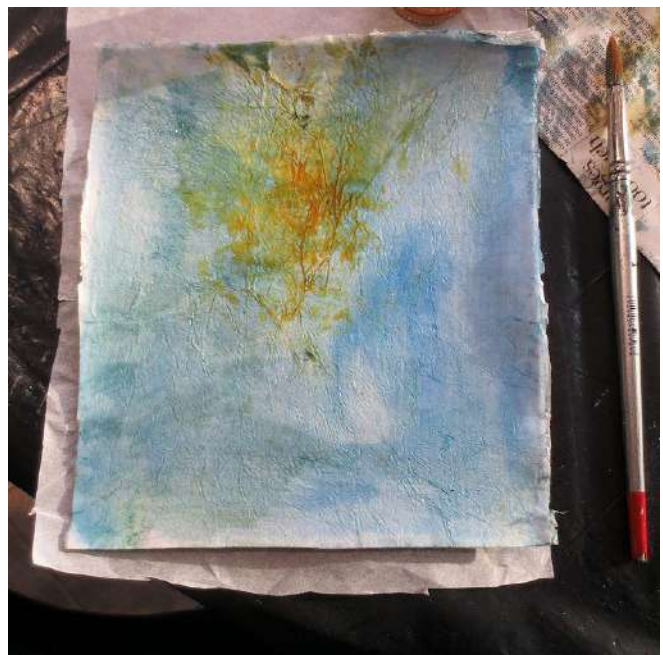
Water-colours or similar paints

Acrylic paints

Painting or printout of sunflowers – on ordinary printer paper

Hand or machine embroidery kit and threads of your choice (not man-made)

1. Cut the felt, tissue and Bondaweb to the size required. Mine was roughly 8in (20cm) square.
2. Iron the Bondaweb to the felt. Crumple the tissue gently in your hand to encourage creasing. Iron it onto the Bondaweb with baking paper under the iron. Check that it is well bonded. Below, left.
3. Give it a single coat of dilute PVA glue. This helps it to take the colour and seals the tissue surface. Finally, paint a little water over the surface (not too much) and allow it to dry. Brush blue and orange water-colour paint onto it, allowing it to mingle a little. Make the centre orange to suggest sunset. Don't worry if it turns a bit green – it's a forest! The wet orange should spread a little into the creases. Below, right.





4. Now paint the Tyvek with well-diluted acrylic paints – don't make the colours too strong. Paint more than you think you will need. See photo, right.

5. Add a little water if it's not spreading enough. Do this by 'splatting' the water onto the Tyvek with a paintbrush. Allow to dry.



6. Cut a piece of BondFX fusible webbing (the very lightweight kind) to cover the background. Just lay it on the top.

7. When the Tyvek is dry, cut it into strips slightly longer than the background to allow for shrinkage. Place some smaller strips to be background trees and possibly add a little dark chiffon to give the foreground definition.

8. Lay the strips on the background, over the fusible webbing – see right.



9. Cover with non stick baking paper and, with the iron set to medium heat, pass it over the piece. I would advise trying this on a practice piece first to get the heat and timing right. Keep peeping to see how it is going. You need the Tyvek to melt a little but not to disappear. I find it best to start on the left and move along the piece, working on a section at a time – see top of page 4 (right).



10. If it does disappear, you can always pop another piece of Tyvek on to make a tree on top, so don't panic. That's why it's a good idea to paint extra Tyvek.

As you can see; the Tyvek bends and moves a bit when ironed but I like that element of surprise and was pleased with the piece – so far.





Hand stitching was added to outline the trees and a few straight stitches on the trunks indicated bark.

The printout of sunflowers for the bottom of the panel was taken from an old photo that I scanned into the computer and printed in a few different sizes on good quality printer paper.

This was crumpled up and backed with felt before a few stitches were added.



The sunflowers were cut out and stitched to the tree piece; the two pieces were slightly overlapped. Stab stitching was used, rather than lines of stitch. This allowed the sunflowers to stand out a little from the background.

I am filled with a desire to do more with the fabric Tyvek and am so pleased that she wrote the WOWbook article – thanks Bev.



*My finished piece.*

Maggie's piece will be on sale at the Brockenhurst Needlework  
Fiesta, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Brockenhurst, Hants  
on 23-24 April 2022.  
All proceeds to the Ukraine Appeal.

This article is based on Bev Caleno's *Forever Autumn: A mixed  
media landscape* step by step workshop which can be found in  
WOWbook 08. You can buy this at [www.d4daisy.com](http://www.d4daisy.com).