SESSION 4: BUTTON ART

Creating simple and effective art from buttons and beads

Materials

These are just suggestions and you won't need everything or you can substitute for what you have available.

- Canvas board/small canvas/wood/shop bought pre-cut shape/card (for the background).

- Buttons, beads & any other optional decorative gems.

- PVA glue

- Templates (optional)

- Pencil & paint brush

- Acrylic or emulsion paint tester pot

Link to demonstration video: **https://youtu.be/Tand1cg_Tm4**

Creating your design

1. Select the background you wish to work on such as a canvas board, small canvas, piece of card, wooden shape or wood off-cut.
2. If working on canvas board, wood or canvas I suggest painting first with a flat background colour using acrylic paint or an emulsion tester pot.
3. Allow to fully dry then draw your shape onto your background, either using a template or create your own simple design.
4. Start by adding pva glue to the outer edge of the design, just working in a small area at a time. Add a thick enough layer of glue so that it can be clearly seen but is not runny.

Creating your design

5. Keep adding buttons (and beads if using) around the outer edge, butting them up closely together and using the smallest shapes to fill the gaps until the whole shape is filled.
6. While the glue is wet the buttons can be gently moved about. Keep an eye on the outer edge of your drawn shape so that your design does not become distorted.
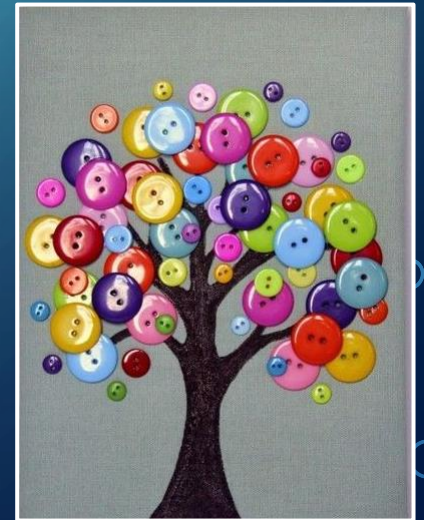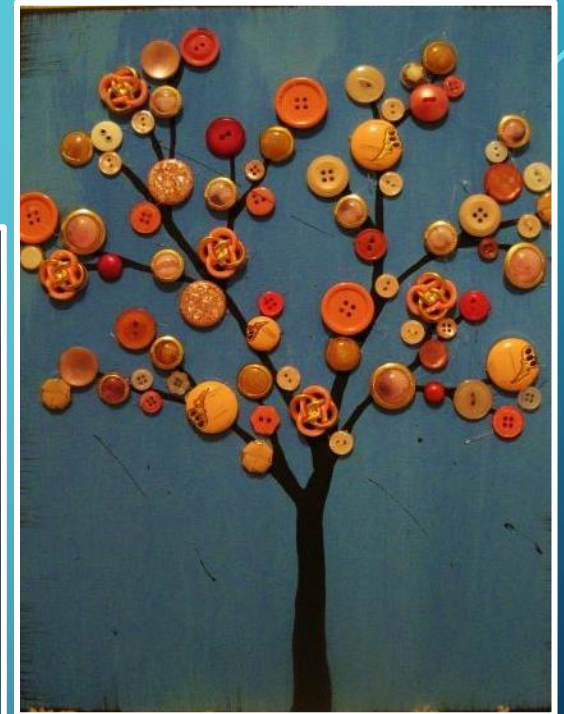

Design tips
- **Think about your colour scheme. A strong contrast between the background and buttons make for a stronger design.**
- **Keep your design simple.**
- **Single colour buttons and beads can look more effective than mixed colours.**
- **Use a wooden skewer of similar to move the buttons around – this prevents your fingers getting too sticky!**
- **Use tiny beads to fill in any gaps but make sure there is plenty of glue to keep them in place.**
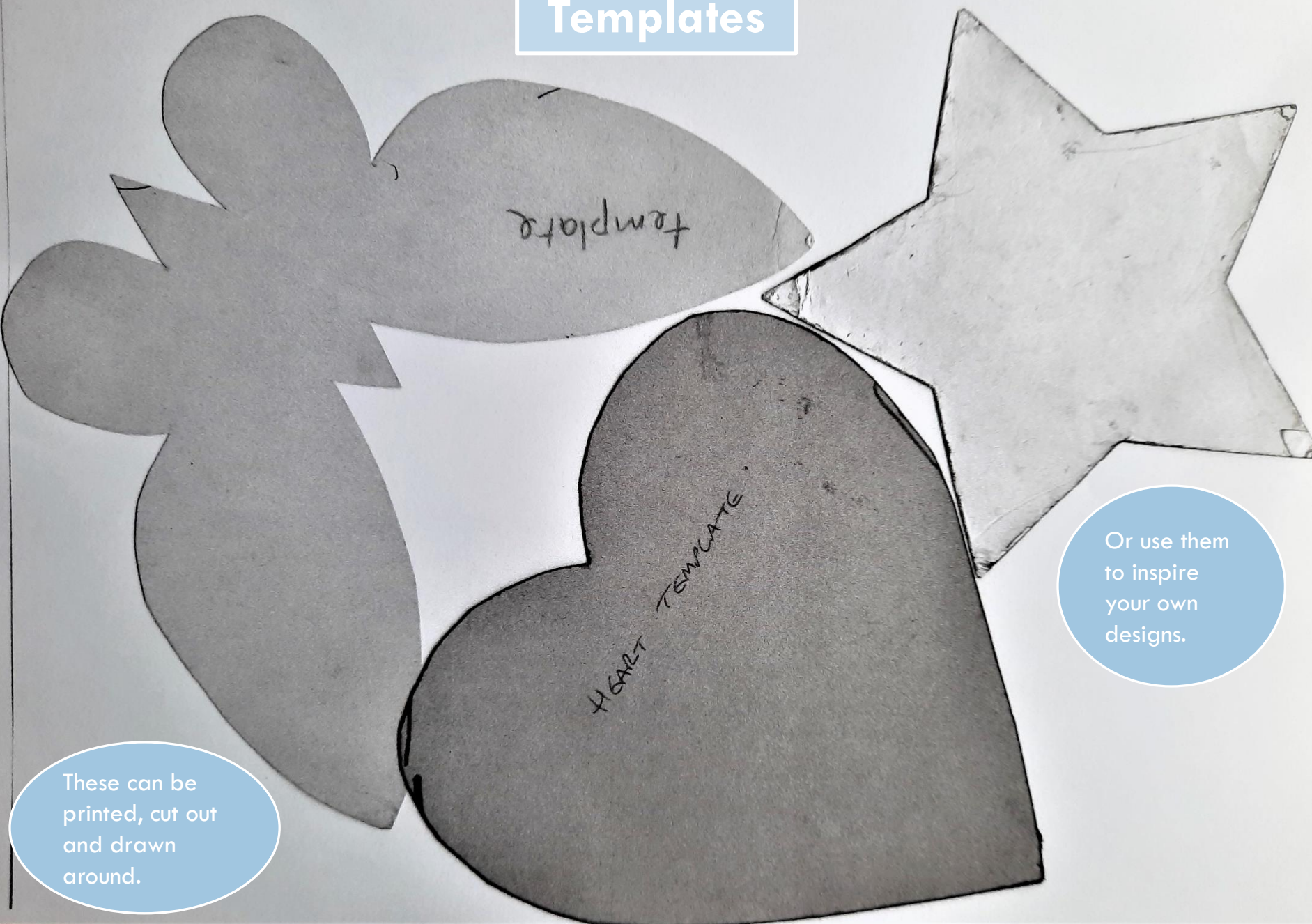
Creating your design

As an alternative starting point draw and paint a design such a simple tree or flowers onto your background. Add just a few buttons to build up your design. This works well for card designs

More creative inspiration

template

HEART TEMPLATE

Or use them to inspire your own designs.

These can be printed, cut out and drawn around.