

Kate Temple  
Recipe for an evaporated ink



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drawing in elderberry and iron rust, 2020

# How to make an evaporated ink

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Suitable for tree bark, woody herbs, acorn caps, onion skins, avocado skin and pips

- 1 Take a couple of large handfuls or more of your plant material and cover with just enough water. Leave to soak
- 2 Put plant material and water into a spare saucepan that you don't use for cooking. Make sure the plant material is completely covered with liquid and a bit more. Top it up if you need to
- 3 Simmer the plant material. Cook it for at least an hour or two. Don't let it boil dry! Add more water if you need to
- 4 Leave to cool and then strain off the solid material (save it – you can use it more than once)
- 5 Put the liquid back into the pan and simmer gently – it will gradually reduce in volume
- 6 Keep checking it. It should be a rich colour with an 'inky' texture. If it's too watery, evaporate it a bit more
- 7 Strain again and then test your ink. You can add a little gum arabic to give it a bit more 'body' or more water if it feels too thick/syrupy. Have a play until it feels just right
- 8 Add cloves for preservation and store somewhere cool in an airtight jar

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Kate Temple is a visual artist living near Edinburgh, and she works with sculpture, ceramics, drawing, painting and performance. She is interested in cross-disciplinary practices and frequently works in community engagement and in collaboration with other artists and non-artists.