

Natural Materials Collection Guidelines

There are many natural materials that can be used in your botanical sculpture moss artwork. Here are some guidelines to help you know what are the best features to look for and what not to look for. Kathleen will take your materials and design with them. She may not use every piece you bring her, but will choose the elements she feels will make the best composition. The botanical artwork is very free flowing and will all depend upon what materials she sees will work well in the piece. If you are unsure if an element will be ok to work with don't worry about it. Just bring it along In everything you collected and she will discard elements that won't be suitable for long term quality of the piece.

Different material that can be used:

- Lightweight Sticks, twigs, bark, driftwood, if you have a small artwork commissioned and are not installing it directly into the wall, look for lightweight elements.
- Dried out mushrooms that are hard and sturdy. Elephant eat mushrooms can dry very hard. These are excellent
- Sea/river shells 🐚
- Lightweight rocks
- Any other Sturdy materials that will last. You can always bring them to the artist in your collection and she will determine if they can be used.

Things to look for:

- Interesting shapes and patterns in sticks and driftwood. Knots are always fun i wood.
- Bendy/curly- Sticks that are very curly or bendy will create interesting bridges over the moss.

Things to watch out for:

- Wood that is very rotten
- Weak/fragile/soft - we want something that will last.
- Mushrooms that aren't hard. They have to be very hard and strong to be used.
- Anything still lush/alive. I won't be able to use anything that is green. Remove all leaves. Any vintage just be thoroughly dried.
- Poisonous - I'm not allergic to most things like poison ivy but others may be who visit your space/home. We want to avoid even the possibility of a problem.

Proper cleaning/care:

After you collect your materials, Kathleen will require you to wash and prepare the materials as well before she collects them for the art.

All wood pieces must be washed of all dirt/debris and clear of all insects and moss. Rinse sticks with regular water to get excess stuff off. Scrub any moss or fungus off the wood. Then pour boiling water over every inch of each piece. The boiling water will make sure all allergens are ineffective and sterilize the piece, making it perfect for a public space.

Any hardened mushrooms can be lightly brushed with a sponge to remove dirt. But it is not necessary to rinse with water or scrub.