Spatterwork painting was a popular craft in the days of the Civil War. Usually, people would collect leaves or cut out pictures to use as stencils for their spatterworks. Then they would use spatters of paint all around the stencil to create a unique silhouette. This tutorial will show you how to create your own spatterwork art!

Materials

- Old shirt or smock to wear
- A protective sheet, like a newspaper or paper bag
- Toothbrush
- Craft stick
- Paper
- Paint
- Scissors
- Stencils or collected leaves

Instructions

1. Gather your materials from the list above!
2. Attached to this PDF are some stencils you can use for your craft, and also a small guide to different leaves you may find outside. You can use the stencils or the leaves, or a combination of both, to create your spatterwork painting! After you decide, lay your stencil or leaf on the paper. (Optional: weigh the stencil down with some small pebbles).
3. Dip your toothbrush into the paint. Make sure it is not dripping but still has enough paint to cover the top of the bristles. We mixed acrylic paint with water so it would splatter easier.

4. Point the toothbrush bristles down over your paper. Carefully drag the craft stick along the top of the bristles of the brush, flicking the paint off the bristles. This will create a pattern of speckles all around the stencil. Keep splattering until there is enough around the stencil to create an outline.
5. Remove the stencil—but be careful to do so slowly. Once your painting is dry you can display it proudly!