

Alissa Allen was introduced to mushroom hunting as a child. In 1998 she attended her first wild mushroom show, hosted by Seattle's [Puget Sound Mycological Society](#) and was immediately hooked. She has been a volunteer, student, and teacher of mycology ever since.

In 2012, Alissa founded [Mycopigments](#) as a program to bring mycology to fiber artists and fiber artists to mycology. Since its inception, she has led hundreds of students, in three countries and twenty-five states, through the steps of exploring and celebrating their regional fungi through the lens of dye research.

In 2015, Alissa created [Mushroom and Lichen Dyers United](#) and the [Mushroom Dyers Trading Post](#) discussion groups, as a platform to mentor, connect, and facilitate study between her students and folks with less access to her classes. These groups, along with her prolific workshop offerings, writings, and informational dye booths, have brought together a vibrant community of over 30,000 members.

This year Alissa is honored to be hosting the [19th International Fungi and Fiber Symposium](#) in Port Townsend WA. During this week-long event, students and teachers from all over the world gather to share their knowledge.

Though her teachings are centered around regional fungal dye palettes, her overall mission is to inspire people to engage more deeply with nature. She believes when we engage our senses to explore the natural world, we form deeper connections that lead to healthier communities and propel us to care for our planet.

To read more about her work, visit <http://mycopigments.com/>