

SUE BENNER

textile artist

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EXPRESSIVE DYE-PAINTING AND PRINTING WITH PROCION MX DYES

CLASS MATERIALS FEE: (handled by PRO Chem) for dyes, chemicals, paints, tools, handout, etc.

SUPPLIES PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING (STUDENT SUPPLY LIST):

FABRIC: 10-20 yards of white **cotton, silk, linen, bamboo, or rayon**, Prepared for Printing or Dyeing (PFP/PFD), or scoured yourself to remove fabric treatments (directions attached at end).

Fabric can be ordered from

1. TestFabrics, www.testfabrics.com, 570-603-0432: cotton broadcloth 419, cotton sateen 480M, cotton print cloth 419M. (and many more as well)
2. PRO Chemical and Dye, www.prochemical.com: cotton broadcloth 200, cotton sheeting 100 (and others)
3. Dharma Trading Co., www.dharmatrading.com: many options for fabric, too.
4. Exotic Silks, www.exoticsilks.com: wholesale/minimum orders apply, not PFD/PFP. I will be placing an order for silk charmeuse, spun silk broadcloth, and/or silk crepe de chine yardage if there is enough interest and making it available in 2 yard pieces. The students can let me know at least 6 weeks ahead of the workshop of their interest at benner.sue@gmail.com.
5. Thai Silks (is the retail version of Exotic Silks), www.thaisilks.com, white silks of all kinds, especially those mentioned above, not PFD/PFP.
6. Hoffman Fabrics, www.hoffmancaliforniafabrics.net: PFD cotton lawn 1377-3-white, which is their base fabric for their batik line as I understand it.
7. Good quality fabric will give the best results. Cotton that is **mercerized** is treated to accept dyes more readily and will dye more brightly (this is very important for bright and deep color!).
 - The standard experimental size for your fabrics is 22" x 22" (good for 44" wide fabric), however you will probably have an opportunity to work larger so don't cut up all your fabric. A good starting point would be to arrive with 12-20 pre-cut 22" x 22" pieces.
 - You can *and should* (if it all possible) soda soak fabrics before class if you like to save time and be prepared (directions attached at end). Please purchase from a reputable company like PRO Chem or Dharma Trading.

ALSO:

- 3-6 paint brushes, ¼" –3" wide (Sue uses brushes for acrylic paint and inexpensive natural bristle house painting brushes.),
- foam brushes if you have them,
- 4-6 plastic spray bottles (plant misters, hair styling sprayer, or even clean recycled ones)
- 4-6 *soft-sided* squeeze bottles/tubes (used for hair dye and the like with wide openings),
- 20 plastic spoons,
- 20 (16-20 oz.) containers for mixing up dye colors: plastic cups (the frosty translucent ones work well because you can see the color), OR 20 recycled yogurt or cottage cheese cups with lids, OR 20 other lidded containers, about 16 oz, taller ones better than flatter ones.
- Pail or tub (3-5 gallon is good), you can bring other supplies packed in this. If facility provides 2 pails each, you can skip this.

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- Plastic drop cloths for placing under and covering fabric. Several (3-5) packets, 9x12' each, or a roll will do. Thicker plastic (1.5-3 mil) is easier to wash and reuse, thinner plastic (like .7 mil) is cheaper but more difficult to reuse. You can precut about 20 pieces to about 30"x30" if you like. I have used the same set of plastic sheets in my studio, over and over.
- 5 or so one-gallon plastic bags easy closure and good seal.
- Clothing to wear while painting (stains will be permanent),
 - work apron,
 - comfortable shoes for concrete floors
 - rubber gloves with at least mid-arm cuffs (like Playtex),
 - thin disposable gloves might be helpful too.
 - If you have a pair of those LONG gloves that go up past the elbow, please bring—they are helpful for washout. If not, you can manage with the shorter ones.

Equipment

Tools--I bring an assortment of these to share but please bring at least some of these tools, but please bring at least some of these.

Please label with your name.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ dust masks (required) or respirator (only if you already have one). | ○ color shapers, |
| ○ Brayers, | ○ stamps, |
| ○ rollers, | ○ tools, |
| ○ squeegees, | ○ clamps, |
| ○ scrapers, | ○ blocks, etc. that you may have in your studio already. |

Other supplies and equipment

- Measuring spoon set; 20 or so clothespins only if you have them
- Camera/phone, optional.
- Notebook, sketchbook, or loose paper for recording notes and sketching ideas.
- Scissors and straight pins (for pinning up fabrics).
- 1 roll of paper towels.
- Roll of masking tape.
- Sharpie for marking fabric (if you want to bring Tyvek for labels with safety pins, please do).
- Sheet protectors and a binder for handouts (optional) – Note: the handout for this class is extensive and some people really like putting their pages in protective sleeves (20-25 needed)
- **Painting inspiration for color combinations, patterns and marks:** your sketches, photos, pages torn from magazines, other works of art, etc. I highly suggest finding reproductions of a couple of paintings whose colors really appeal to you to bring for one or two of the color schemes.
- *Please note: If you have a dye color-mixing reference (like some of the sample/formula notebooks produced in workshops) for Procion MX dyes, I strongly suggest bringing it for*

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this class. Carol Soderlund and I have talked about how to use the reference binders from her classes for color mixing in this class.

SUPPLIES I WILL HAVE ON HAND:

- Color handout for each student
- Dyes, chemicals, etc.
- Extra plastic drop cloths
- Tools, tools, tools to share
- Limited amounts silk for purchase (I will contact you by email ahead of time if at all possible or just email me.)
- *Please email or call Sue if you have any questions about the supply list!*

PREPARING FABRIC FOR THE WORKSHOP:

- *Remember to use fabrics suggested in supply list. Good fabric produces much better results.*
- *You could prepare 10 or more yards ahead of time. (If you can't manage this in your space at home or studio, don't worry, you can do it in class when you get there.)*
- *Here are the directions for the TWO steps, scouring and soda-soaking:*

SCOUR (PRE-WASH)

Wash and dry fabric to remove sizing and other contaminants; this is called "scouring," and is ideally done with a ½ teaspoon each of Synthrapol and soda ash per pound of fabric in hot water (140 degrees) for 15 minutes. If your machine load is completely full, 2 teaspoons of each should do it.

Note: Cottons vs. silks!

Cotton: I machine wash cottons on regular cycle, very hot water, machine dry.

Silk: machine wash silks on gentle, warm water, and drip dry.

If fabrics are listed as PFP or PFD (Prepared For Printing or Dyeing) you do not have to scour.

However, you still need to soda soak!

SODA SOAK

- Dissolve 9 T. soda ash in one gallon of warm water.
- Immerse DRY, scoured fabric in soda soak solution, for about 15 minutes, wring out (can use washing machine if no extra water is added in spin), and hang to dry. You can save the left-over soda solution for later use—just be sure to cover it. If you ever have any

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question about the strength of your soda soak solution, start over with a new batch.
Better to be safe than sorry.

- If you want to remove wrinkles on the cotton, iron on **low** temperature to prevent scorching, with **no** steam, store in a plastic bag and bring to class. Remember to wash your ironing board cover afterward to remove soda (or cover with another cloth in the first place). I don't iron the fabric before I dye-paint. An alternative to ironing is to roll it smoothly on a tube to transport.
- **NOTES ON SILK:** Soda soak silk a week or two before it will be used and do NOT iron. You can damage the silk with the combination of soda ash and heat.
- You can also look this up in Ann Johnston's wonderful book, *Color By Design: Paint and Print with Dye*, page 28.