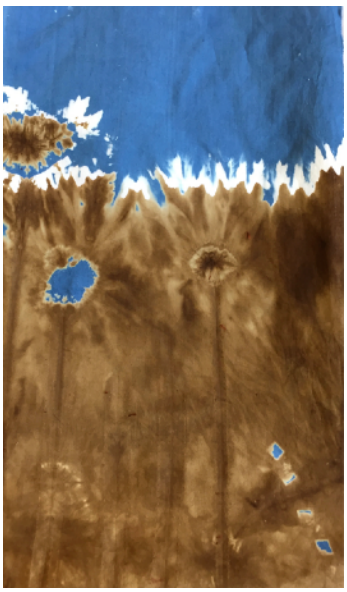


Indigo Discharge: Blue, Brown, and White

Elin Noble

This class will engage indigo dye from two vantage points. We will begin by applying indigo on cellulose cloth (cotton, linen, hemp, ramie). After that we will selectively remove indigo through a series of resist techniques and direct application techniques.

The first day of the course we will make an indigo vat and dye cloth creating a variety of blue hues. On subsequent days we will use paste and clay resists in addition to stitched, wrapped, and clamped resists to create patterns. We will create a variety of imagery, focusing on blue on brown, blue on white, white on blue, brown on blue, or a combination of all of these.

We will remove the indigo dye using potassium permanganate, which first leaves the background color in varying shades of brown. Further processing removes the brown, leaving the background color white with an indigo blue pattern.

What you need to bring (please put your name on your supplies)

- Scissors or thread snips
- Soft pencil and/or disappearing marker for shibori marking on cloth
- Permanent fine tip black marker - to mark your name on your cloth such as Rub-A Dub or Sharpie
- Roll masking tape (partial roll is fine – any width)
- Rubber gloves:
  - 1 pair that is at least 5” above your wrist to dye in the indigo vat (I like Casabella and I wear size L)
  - a few pair of disposable gloves for the discharge process
- Paper dust mask to use with discharge process
- Smock/apron, work clothes and even old shoes

Fabric

5-10 yards of washed and dried cellulose cloth such as: cotton, linen, hemp, ramie or any combination of these. The cloth can be white or light in color to dye in the indigo vat, or it can be already dyed with indigo, hand or commercially dyed with synthetic dyes, or natural dyes to discharge directly (yes, this works on cloth dyed with other dyes). It is fine to bring t-shirts, socks, etc, to work on. You know your speed of working so judge how much cloth you bring on your work habits and if you prefer to work large or small.

DO NOT bring ultra lightweight cloth and do not bring rayon, tencel, silk or wool. These fibers shred when exposed to the discharge process. Long staple paper is successful to dye and discharge. Please contact me with any questions.

Optional items that are handy to have if they are easy to bring and you have them - I will bring these to share with the class.

- A handful of rubber bands
- Hand sewing needles - I like Millinery size 9, Quilt Basting size 7, and Doll Making needles. I will also bring needles and the thread I like for hand stitching shibori for everyone to share. You are welcome to stitch the cloth before coming to class. Make sure you use a double thread. You can pull up the stitches, but **DO NOT** tie off the ends - they need to be very tight and I will demonstrate this in class.
- Clothes pins – a generous hand full
- seam ripper
- Selection of **synthetic** brushes - round, flat, small, to large to directly apply the discharge to the cloth

- Shapes for clamping: jar lids, metal washers, wooden shapes in sets of 2 per shape (squares, rectangles, triangles), chop sticks, …
- Any clamping device (2-4 c-clamps, bulldog clips, squeeze/spring clamps)
- We will be stitching, clamping, and pole wrapping shibori patterns on cellulose cloth. Bring tools that you like to use for preparing the cloth for your favorite shibori patterns. There are various circumference poles for arashi and bomaki shibori at the school.
- We will also be applying paste and clay resists to the cloth. Bring a small selection of printing blocks, stencils, and stamping supplies to create patterns on the cloth.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions about the supply list or class. Feel free to contact me via email, text, and we can set up a time to talk.

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