

Natural Dyes: Patterning With Mordants

At Cultus Bay Gardens with Elin Noble



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

- Scissors to cut or snip fabric
- Roll of masking tape (partial roll is fine - any width)
- Selection of paint brushes - bristle and/or foam in various sizes
- Easy to transport tools you use in your studio practice to make marks on cloth
- Rubber gloves (household gloves that are at least 10-12cm above your wrist, such as Casabella) that withstand hot water, and if you have them, a pair of light weight insulating gloves.
- A few pair of close fitting disposable gloves
- Apron
- Notebook/writing tool to take notes

Cloth: Most of the work will be small in scale in order to explore ideas.

The cloth needs to be 100% natural: cellulose (plant fiber) or silk. No polyester or acrylic, or natural cloth treated with permanent press or protective finishes. Bring silk, bamboo, rayon, cotton, linen, hemp, or any blend of these. Wool is not as successful for these printing processes.

Bring from home a selection of cloth (or skeins of thread/yarn) totaling 2-3 yards. Participants are encouraged to experiment with fibers they are most familiar with and that they will most likely use in their own studio practice. Once your cloth is washed, dried, and ironed, roll it on a tube instead of folding it. Your cloth will remain flat and ready to work on without having to iron the folds out again. Plan for your cloth to be no larger than 20" x 32" (it can be smaller), this is the approximate size of the work surface you will have.

Scour/Wash for used/old cotton and linen cloth/napkins, etc.

Simmer the cloth for approximately 20-30 minutes in a pot of water with 1 tsp soda ash and ½ tsp synthrapol or free and clear dish detergent (that is, free and clear of any scent) or orvis paste, per pound of dry cloth. Make sure the cloth is covered and do not crowd it in the pot. Rinse in warm water and hang to dry, then iron the cloth flat. If you don't have a large pot, pour boiling water into a bucket with the soap, agitate, and let it soak for 20-30 minutes with periodic agitation. Then continue with the rinse and drying process. Repeat the hot wash if the water is particularly dirty or if you still see stains.

Scour/Wash for new cloth - cotton, linen, hemp, or ramie

Wash cotton, linen, hemp, ramie in the washing machine on hot with a free and clear washing detergent. Hang to dry, do not put in the dryer, and iron the cloth flat.

Scour/Wash for silk (ONLY) do NOT scour or wash silk organza:

Simmer (do not boil) the cloth for approximately 20-30 minutes in a pot of water with ½ tsp synthrapol or free and clear dish detergent (that is free and clear of any scent) or orvis paste per pound of dry cloth. Make sure the cloth is covered and do not crowd it in the pot. Rinse in warm water and hang to dry, and iron the cloth flat.

Things that are handy to have - I will bring these items for the class to share

- Brayer and/or foam roller (the single handle small circumference dense foam roller).
- We will do a little bit of screen printing. If you have a small screen with or without an image or thermofax, then bring it along with a squeegee.
- A selection of rubber or wood stamps and any printing tools you like to use.

Please email me with ANY questions - if you are wondering about anything, please ask: elin@elinnoble.com