

Suzanne Connors

DYEING WITH INDIGO WORKSHOP, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, 10am – 3pm, Studio A

Indigo is an ancient dye derived from the leaves of plants and surrounded by magic, mystery and folklore. Discover how the leaves 'make blue' by learning about the character and chemistry of the natural indigo vat.

The complex chemistry of the indigo vat is fascinating and students will soon appreciate how rituals have grown around the making and using of a successful vat. The unique 'attaching' of indigo to fiber means it is particularly suited to resist methods of dyeing, such as shibori, where portions of cloth are closed off to the dye or where the flow of dye is restricted. Different shades of blue build on the fabric after several dips, exhibiting the beautiful graded hues which are so typical of indigo.

SKILLS/TECHNIQUES COVERED

Students will initially learn how an indigo vat is made. A vat will be prepared in the morning and the basic chemistry explained. Natural indigo powder will be used, and the vat will be 'reduced' using a commercially available chemical. While the vat develops, students will be shown shibori techniques: a folded and clamped method, and a twisted and tied technique. Students can expect to make several pillow or napkin sized samples

✓ MATERIALS

Instructor will provide (6) pieces sample materials for class but it is suggested that students also bring additional fibers

Instructor will provide the appropriate # of indigo vats/ rinse buckets/ paper covering for tables

Instructor will provide materials to create shibori- wood blocks, clamps, sewing needles, rubber bands, rocks, marbles, arashi poles

Need water/ clotheslines

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU:

A pair of new rubber gloves

Cotton string

A seam-picker or small pair of sharp scissors

An old shirt or apron – and please wear old clothes

Closed-toe shoes

(1) item of clothing you wish to "upcycle" with your new skills

Various fabric samples in different fibers- 24" x 24" or a set of 100% cotton or linen napkins- PRE SCOURED

PRE SCOUR ALL Fabrics before bringing to class (wash in Hot water with mild soap-boil for 20-30 minutes)

DAILY PROGRAM

Workshop starts at 10am and finishes at 3:00pm with a break during the day for lunch

- Workshop Cost: \$125 member/ \$150 nonmember
- Materials fee: \$15.00/ person to be paid directly to the instructor at the class