

Natural Dyes: Developing a Personal Language

At QBL with Elin Noble



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

- Scissors for paper and to cut or snip fabric
- Permanent black marker for marking your name on cloth
- 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) and that withstand hot water
- 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 develop an extensive body of information.

The cloth needs to be 100% natural: cellulose 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 printing processes. Contact me if you are considering dyeing wool.

Bring from home a selection of cloth (and or scarves or yarn) totaling 5-8 yards, for mordant and dye painting processes. Students are encouraged to experiment with fibers they are most familiar with and that they will most likely use in their own studio practice.

Scour for cotton (ONLY) do NOT scour linen, hemp, or ramie:

It does not matter if your cloth is PFD, it needs to be scoured. 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. Wash a second time if the water is particularly dirty. Wash linen, hemp, ramie in the washing machine on hot with a free and clear detergent.

Scour 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.

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

- 2 or more pieces (approximately 20 x 30 inches) of clear flexible vinyl (from fabric stores) for monoprinting.
- 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.
- Spool of upholstery thread and needles if you wish to try stitched shibori. I will bring thread and needles as well.
- A selection of rubber or wood stamps.

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