

Colour Blocking

with Susan Purney Mark

In this workshop we will learn to make and use thickened dyes as a base for printing with a silk screen. Thickened dyes do not change the hand of the fabric, allowing the fabric to remain soft and supple despite repeated applications, plus thickened dyes are transparent, so layers of dye will change intensity, value and colours, giving the artist a wide range of possible uses for their created cloth. We can also use soy wax as a mask on the screen adding even more possibilities to create amazing cloth.

Supply List

- 10-15 fat quarters (18" x 22" approx) or smaller white natural (cotton, linen, silk or hemp) fabrics. I'd suggest that a fat quarter is a good size to work on. **SEE BELOW FOR PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS
- 8-10 plastic sheets to cover your work space and wrap damp fabric to batch
- 6-8 plastic drink or small yogurt pots and 8-10 plastic spoons
- Snug fitting latex or rubber gloves
- Apron or old shirt to cover clothing
- Wipe up cloths or paper towels
- Fabric scissors
- 1 box T-pins or flower head pins-must have flat tops
- masking tape
- one silk screen with open mesh, measuring at least 8"x 10" (inside measurement), if you have more than one, maybe arrange to share with friends. Dick Blick has good ones for under \$20: <https://www.dickblick.com/products/blick-cord-stretched-frame-with-110-monofilament-polyester-mesh/>

A Print Table is an important item to use for screen printing. It keeps the fabric taut while you use both hands on the screen and provides a padded surface so that the images show clearly on the fabric. You will find it useful for many surface design applications. Here is a link for a short video to make your own print table: <https://vimeo.com/118942877>

Prepare your fabrics by dissolving 1/2 cup of soda ash into 1 gallon of warm water. Soak fabrics for at least 30 minutes, remove and squeeze out excess solution, use gloves for this, soda ash is slightly caustic. Hang to dry. **DO NOT put in dryer or iron. Store in plastic bags - if using silk - prepare just before workshop

You will need:

- 20" or larger square of thick (1/2") foam core, plywood or Styrofoam slab (available at Michael's or art supply store)
- 2 layers of lowloft cotton batting, old towels or felt (cannot have seams)
- Inexpensive muslin or cheap discard fabric

Please bring \$30.00 cash for your kit fee. Your kit will include:

- dyes, alginate as thickener and chemicals
- 2 printed fabrics for dyeing
- soy wax for applying to the screen
- *nothing on this list should be used later for food preparation!

Any questions? Email me at susanpm@shaw.ca