

# Exploring Indigo

Patterning fabric with a variety of indigo shibori techniques

## Key Information

**Tutor:** Sam Jones

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Time:** 9.30 am – 5pm

**Venue:** InStitches, Near Wokingham

**Experience Level:** Suitable for all levels

**Student supplies:** All the materials for this workshop are included in the fee. If you would like to dye an optional cotton or silk scarf you can purchase this from Sam on the day or bring your own.

## Overview

This workshop is designed as an introduction to a range of indigo shibori patterning processes such as itajime, arashi and stitched shibori and you will explore these resist techniques on a variety of cotton and some silk fabric.

Two different ways of making an indigo vat will be introduced to you and we will discuss how indigo vats can be maintained.

You will produce a variety of samples which could be used in larger works or kept as reference samples for future shibori patterning experimentation. On day three, if time allows, you will have the option to make an indigo dyed scarf.

Content will include:

- Preparation of fabric
- Making of natural and synthetic indigo vats
- Kanoko, Itajime and Arashi patterning techniques
- Stitched shibori techniques
- A presentation of Sam's indigo research trip to Japan
- How to dye your fabrics in an indigo vat
- Oxidising prints to ensure clarity
- Aftercare of fabrics

## Supplies on site

The supplies fee includes use of the following media, materials and equipment:

- A variety of fabric for you to experiment with
- Equipment and materials to make several shibori fabric bundles and for the dyeing of them
- Natural and synthetic indigo and vat making chemicals
- Handout

## What to Bring

**Cloth** – I will provide cloth for you to experiment with, but you may want to bring some small samples of your own fabric to test how it will work with the techniques and the indigo. I would recommend silk, silk/cotton, linen, lightweight to medium weight cotton and old table/placemats will often dye well.

**NB:** your fabric will need to be scoured before you can dye it, place fabric in the washing machine do not overload it as the cloth needs to be able to move around. Dissolve 2-3 tablespoons of soda ash in warm water and pour into the dispenser drawer along with a small squirt of hand wash detergent. Wash at the hottest temperature your fabric will bear i.e. silk 30 degrees, cotton 60 degrees. Once the fabric is dry do the water droplet test – does a drop of water sit on top of the fabric or disappear into the fabric. If it sits on top wash the fabric for a second time with soda ash and hand wash detergent.

### **Cotton/ Silk scarf –**

This can be bought from Sam or you can bring your own (make sure that it has been scoured ready for dyeing)

## Please also bring...

**1:** A drop cloth: this is a piece of sturdy fabric such as cotton drill, it needs to measure 1.5 x 2.25m once hot washed and shrunk. InStitches keep a stock of washed and scoured drop cloth that you can purchase, please contact them to order, see details below

**2:** Apron or wear old clothing

**3:** Notebook and pen

**4:** Comfortable, rubber soled shoes

**5:** A camera to record work in progress

**6:** Rubber gloves

**7:** Hand sewing kit, needles, scissors, stitch unpicker

**8:** Water erasable pen

**9:** Ruler

**If you have any questions about the workshop content or supplies please email Sam direct at [samanthajones457@icloud.com](mailto:samanthajones457@icloud.com) If you have any queries about the venue, accommodation or dietary requirements please email Hazel and Terry at InStitches, [hazel@institchestextilecourses.co.uk](mailto:hazel@institchestextilecourses.co.uk) or [terry@institchestextilecourses.co.uk](mailto:terry@institchestextilecourses.co.uk)**

## **Suppliers**

If you want to order a washed and scoured drop cloth (£17.50) from InStitches please email Hazel - [hazel@institchestextilecourses.co.uk](mailto:hazel@institchestextilecourses.co.uk)

Fabric, cotton and silk scarves – Rainbow Silks – [www.rainbowsilks.co.uk](http://www.rainbowsilks.co.uk)

Water soluble pens – Hobbycraft, Dunelm, Rainbow Silks, children's washable felt tip pens are also good for marking your fabric.