

BARBARA SHAPIRO LECTURE AND WORKSHOP

Lecture: The Magic of Indigo, February 12

This richly illustrated lecture explores the history and importance of indigo as a dyestuff and commodity whose trade has had wide spread ramifications and has touched many aspects of life in diverse cultures. The story indigo is a fascinating way to look at world history. Called the king of colors and the color of kings, in addition to its fascinating history as a commodity, indigo can be approached from the point of view of its amazing technical and chemical aspects as well as from the aesthetics of its various uses. We will explore cultural and contemporary applications artisans and artists around the world and shed light the mysteries of this most magic blue dye.

Workshop: A Greener Indigo, February 12-13

Discover the magic and delve into the mystery of indigo, one of the oldest and most influential dyes. We will set up an indigo dye bath using a simple ecological formula suitable for studio use. I will introduce basic indigo dyeing procedures and resist techniques for your samples. You will prepare cloth for dyeing and experiment in resist dyeing and printing or painting with thickened indigo. By the end of the workshop, you will have a set of dyed and printed indigo samples and the knowledge to go on using this magic dye with a non-toxic "green" formula suitable for the home studio. Alternate recipes will be discussed.

The "new" formula I will present is based on research by French natural dye expert Michel Garcia presented during the World Shibori (and Natural Dye) Symposium, October 2008. I have been experimenting with this rediscovered formula since then and I feel it is important to share this safer, non toxic, non fummy, inexpensive, and easily disposed of formula widely used during the 18th century. This formula can also be thickened and used to paint or print with indigo. This workshop will compliment my lecture on February 12, 2010. Participants should attend the lecture as well.

Registration: Workshop fee is \$70, plus \$25 for materials. For more information or to register, contact kradclif@mac.com

Workshop will be held at the San Diego Rug Cleaning Company, 7848 Silverton Ave., Suite G, San Diego, CA 92126

Student supply list

Students should bring a work shirt or apron, rubber gloves, a dust mask, a Chinese style pointed paint brush, a basic sewing kit, note taking materials, a small clean glass spice bottle to take home thickened dye, a Chinese style paint brush or other small brush.

Optional: a small wooden stamp or a wine cork, fabric or yarn for a personal project. Also Optional: Bring a glass or plastic jar with a lid to take home some of the dye. We will divide up the vats so there is no waste. The dye should be good for 3 to 5 weeks."

Biography

Involved in textiles from an early age, Barbara Shapiro began weaving in 1975 in New York City. She combines a rich knowledge of historical and ethnic textiles with broad technical experience in weaving, dyeing and basketry. After being involved in the San Francisco Art to Wear movement in the '70s and '80s, Barbara shifted her focus to non-functional textile art. She teaches frequent workshops and classes at the Art Department at San Francisco State University. A Board Member of the Textile Society of America, she also serves on the Textile Arts Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San



Francisco and is a docent at the Museum of Craft and Folk Art. Barbara's wall pieces and baskets have been widely exhibited.