

Fri 30.10 Exercise in Textile printing workshop

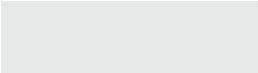
In this exercise the focus is in surface design and sketching, in the rhythm and composition as well as a bit in colour. The material aspect does not need to be considered much yet – you will get a very basic cotton fabric to print on. In addition, you could try printing on your own materials, if you have some. Pigment dyes with transparent printing paste will be used as a colour method.

This exercise is both about pigment dyes and printing, and about creative sketching. The results from this class could be even used a screen design (when scanned) or even as your final samples. Keep your visual research in mind, but do not let it restrict you. The aim of this quick pace exercise is to free your mind to sketch and to concentrate on the rhythm of the surface.

Mix colours

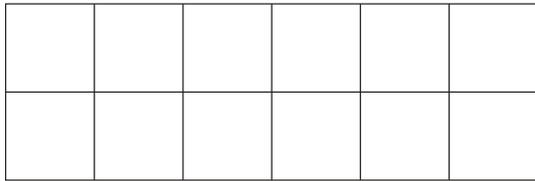
Begin by mixing the colours in pairs – one pair mix one colour. If you will need more later, you can make more, and also share your dyes with other pairs. Begin my mixing 100 g – when testing, it is advisable to mix small batches to avoid dye waste. Search the sample folders in dye kitchen for a desired tone. You can find examples of how the pure colours will look when printed as well as different colour mixes. You can find examples of the shade of full colour as well as it's dilutions.

The maximum colour strength of print colour is referred to as the full depth of shade; for example, 20 g/kg, which is the deepest colour a particular dye dispersion can provide, and its dilutions. For example, a print colour's shade depth ratio of 1:1 refers to a colour mixed with one half of full depth of shade and the other half of transparent printing paste = when aiming to 100 g, take 50 g of full colour and 50 g of transparent printing paste.

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|---|---------------------|--|
|  | Full depth of shade | |
|  | 1:1 | 50 g full depth of shade / 50 g transparent printing paste |
|  | 1:2 | 33 g full depth of shade / 66 g transparent printing paste |
|  | 1:4 | 20 g full depth of shade / 80 g transparent printing paste |
|  | 1:9 | 10 g full depth of shade / 90 g transparent printing paste |
|  | 1:19 | 5 g full depth of shade / 95 g transparent printing paste |

Printing exercise

1. Take a 50 cm piece of plain cotton fabric, these are readily cut for you. Divide the fabric in twelve 25 cm x 25 cm pieces – *do not cut* the fabric, but fold it, sharpen the folds with your finger and then open again. Use *table* tape to adhere the fabric in table.



Take a stamp that represents a basic shape, such as a rectangle, triangle, or circle. Make a “stamping pad”: Take a piece of rubber, put a spoonful of your colour on it and cover it with a piece of foam. Start sketching different surfaces using the selected stamp and one print colour – make 12 which are as different from each other as possible. Think about the rhythm of the surface:

Is it dense or loose, orderly or free-form in composition?

Is it one-way, two-way or four-way design?

How to express movement in surface texture?

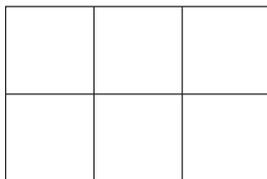
How to build a static surface?

What kind of surface creates a spatial, three-dimensional impression?

What kind of patterns are formed between the elements?

Finally, lift the fabric to dry on rack.

2. Take another 50 cm piece of plain cotton fabric, cut it in half and divide in 6 pieces by folding.



Make six designs using any interesting media – stamps, brushes, combs... See the large top drawer in dye kitchen for interesting equipment! You can also use several colours if you want.

3. Take your remaining piece of cotton and try screen printing with a common screen. Remember to tape the fabric in table, in screen printing it is more important than in block printing. If your previous samples are already dry, you could even try screen printing on top of them.

Fixing the dye

Once the fabrics are dry, fix the dye with a heat press, at 160 °C, two presses for 20 seconds – in a large heat press the settings for fixing pigment dye are readily programmed. Protect the heating press with baking paper, from both sides of the fabric.

In the end of the class

- Tell for the organizers the amounts of printing paste and full colours you have taken.
- Start cleaning in good time (30 min or more) before you should leave the workshop. Wash the table and all the equipment you have used and leave them to dry.
- If you did not use all of the dyes, put the remaining once in a container with a lid. Mark in the container: your name, name of the course, date and content. Put the container in a fridge, on a shelf marked with the name of our course.