

## SHORT COURSE DETAILS

### SWE07673 A FIRST DIP INTO NATURAL DYES

Tutor: ISABELLA WHITWORTH

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 2 MARCH – SUNDAY 4 MARCH

## ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course offers a hands-on introduction to the world of natural dyes and their rich and ancient history. Weld, madder, cochineal and indigo will be used: all of these derive from plant material except cochineal, an insect dye. You will use raw dyestuff as well as natural dyes available in extract form and will learn the vital essentials of preparing materials before dyeing. There will be a session on mordanting with alum and cream of tartar, and tannin. An indigo vat will be made up and the associated processes explained.

Some simple dye chemistry will be outlined to enable you to prepare dyestuffs and dyes effectively and you will learn how to make and calculate stock solutions. Over the period of the course expect to dye a selection of reference samples on silk fabric and wool yarn using the four dyestuffs. Overdyeing, and the use of different dye concentrations, will result in a wide range of colours.

The historical aspects of natural dyes will be presented in short talks and during general practical work.

You will also have the option of producing a natural-dyed silk scarf or individual samples as part of the course and some basic creative dye techniques will be demonstrated for you to use.

## LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to learn the basics, and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

## ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Isabella trained as a graphic designer, working in industry before 'discovering' textiles during Asian travels. She specialises in resist-dyeing, particularly wax resist, and has an international following as artist and tutor. Isabella has spent several years researching natural dye trade history. She is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen.

## TIMETABLE:

### Arrival day: Friday 2 March

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.00pm	First teaching session – <b>attendance is an essential part of the course.</b>

### Other days: Saturday 3 March

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue

**Other days continued: Saturday 3 March**

5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

**Departure day: Sunday 4 March**

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

**REQUIRED PREPARATION:**

None.

**MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:**

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

**Materials included in the course fee:**

The course fee includes the cost of dyes, mordant, one silk scarf and silk and wool samples.

**Additional charge:**

Any additional materials you may purchase from the tutor should be paid to her before the end of the course, by cash or cheque.

**Available from the Shop:**

Additional fabric or silk blanks if required

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Additional fabric or silk blanks if required

**Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:**

An apron or cover-all shirt

A pair of kitchen-type gloves

**HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.