

Dear prospective students,

This class will cover the basics of designing and cutting stencils and stamps for low-tech fabric printing using textile inks and dyes for natural fiber fabrics.

On the first day, we will look at some repeat patterns and learn how variations and iterations of simple shapes can lead to dynamic motifs to make your own patterns. We will start with a simple motif-generating exercise that you may continue with or you can begin by working on motifs you already have in mind. Or you may simply use stencils available in the workshop if you want to practice technique. This first day we will concentrate on the properties of stencils and how to translate designs into this format. My hope is that by the end of the day everyone will have cut a stencil and used it with some textile ink. On the first or second day, I will also cover the basic principles of color mixing since we will be using cyan, magenta and yellow to generate all colors, plus black and white.

The second day we will move into making and using thickened dye with the same or new stencils and stamps.

What you need to bring:

- 1 to 2 yards of cotton, linen or other natural fiber fabric. If you are planning to make a tote bag, cotton canvas or duck would be best. For less heavy-duty projects, a cotton broadcloth would yield good results; look for something with a relatively smooth surface, not too textured.
- a sketchbook and pencil for notes and ideas
- a black sharpie or other fat black pen
- any motif ideas or doodles or reference material you might already have
- dishwashing type gloves to protect your hands
- a dust/particle mask (if you have one—some will be on hand)
- a protective shirt if needed
- stencil brush(es) if you have one or more
- X-acto knife + cutting mat (if you have one—some will be on hand)
- a packed lunch as campus food facilities will be closed
- OPTIONAL: textured materials you might want to experiment stamping with or stenciling through; i.e. plastic net fruit bags, bubble wrap, corks, etc.

Your \$30 materials fee will provide:

- test fabric
- textile ink
- dyes and chemicals for thickened dye paste to use in class
- stencil material + a stencil brush
- plexiglass + foam material for stamping