



# Eco-Printing & Surface Design

August 13, 2022

*Presented by: Pat Kresty*



**The Works**  
Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology

Join us to create your own beautiful silk eco prints. Watch the magic of Mother Nature as you unbundle your unique piece.

**INTRODUCTION:** This workshop will explore the process of eco-printing on fabric. We will also dabble in techniques to add and modify color to your piece. At the end of the day, you will have a beautiful scarf and a silk project, that's suitable as a table runner, framed picture, or wrapped on canvas.

The goal is to extract colors from leaves and other natural materials through contact printing. The printing process creates a permanent transfer of pigment from the plant material to fiber. We will be using a natural protein fiber, silk. This is not an in depth or technical class, it is a fun day to get away and learn to make something beautiful and functional. Participants may also experiment with some samples time permitting. All skill levels are welcome.

We will discuss plant choices, mordant versus modifier and what bundling methods produce clear and colorful prints. We will also examine how color modifiers affect the dyes.

The colors and patterns produced when eco printing can be unpredictable—it is a little chemistry, botany and luck all rolled together. The same plant material e.g. maple leaves, will produce different results depending on the season, soil conditions, how much precipitation has fallen and where the leaf is in its life cycle. Results can vary depending upon whether the material is a protein or cellulose fabric, or if a pre or post- mordant or modifier has been used.

**AGENDA:** Listed below is a very basic outline of the day.

10:00-11:00 Introduction and Material gathering.

11:00-1:00 Creating - laying out leaves, bundling, binding and placing in steamer.

1:00-1:30 Lunch Break

1:30-2:00 Reveal and Wrap Up

**HEALTH & SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:** No food or drinks should be consumed in the room where printing is being done. When foraging for material please be mindful of any poisonous plants e.g. poison ivy. Some plant material may contain spores or mold avoid breathing in the steam or fumes from dye pots. Print only in well ventilated or outdoor areas. Please read and follow all instructions if you are using dye extracts or mordants. Make sure you wash your hands after working with plant material or wear gloves.

#### **WHAT TO BRING:**

Please feel free to bring leaves or flowers from your neighborhood. I have included a list of some plants you may want to try at the bottom of this page.

- Plastic bag to collect plant material
- Paper and Pen for notes.
- Lunch - Bring a brown bag lunch and beverage.

#### **WHAT TO WEAR:**

Please dress appropriately for the weather. We will be collecting leaves and plant material outdoors. Wear old clothes suitable for gardening or decorating, and/or bring a cloth apron.

#### **MATERIAL LIST:**

All of the items listed below will be available for your use. Please feel free to bring your own scissors, extra fabric, gloves or other items.

- Each student will print a scarf(s) from 100% silk and create a Raw Silk print to use as a wall hanging or table runner
- Rubber/latex gloves
- Wooden dowels
- String/rubber bands
- Fabric weights
- Vinegar and Rust Water
- Plastic Containers and Paper Towels
- Cotton Flannel, to be used as dye blankets
- Dyebath(s) color to be determined

#### **Plants - these are just a few**

Marigolds blossoms  
Maple leaves  
Smoke Bush leaves  
Hickory leaves  
Chestnut leaves  
Black Walnut leaves  
Trembling Aspen leaves

Sumac leaves and cones  
Geranium perennials  
Peony leaves  
Oak leaves  
Blackberry leaves  
Coreopsis flower heads  
Rose leaves

## RESOURCES:

Fabric and dyeing supplies:

Dharma Trading <https://www.dharmatrading.com/>

Thai Silks <https://www.thaisilks.com>

## REFERENCES:

Buchanan, R. (1995). A dyer's garden. Interweave.

Cardon, D. (2007) Natural dyes. Archetype.

Fletcher, K. (2008). Sustainable fashion & textiles. Earthscan.

Flint, I. (2008). Eco Colour. Murdoch Books.

Gray, C. & Malins, J. (2004). Visualizing research.

Ashgate. Böhmer, H. (2002). Koekboya: Natural dyes and textiles.

Kadolph, S. J. & Diadick-Casselmann, K. (2004). In the bag: Contact natural dyes. Clothing and Textiles Research Journal, 22(1/2), 15-21.

Niles, J. N. (1990). The art and craft of natural dyeing. University of Tennessee Press. Richards, L. & Tyrl, R. J. (2005). Dyes from American native plants. Timber Press, Inc.

Wipplinger, M. (2005). Natural dye instruction booklet. Seattle, WA: Earthues.

## CONTACT INFO:

Pat Kresty email: [pkresty@gmail.com](mailto:pkresty@gmail.com) or [pkresty@hotmail.com](mailto:pkresty@hotmail.com) [facebook.com/pkrestydesigns.com](https://facebook.com/pkrestydesigns.com)