

Fire & Sea: Tie-Dye Project
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Introduction

Throughout the process of being a creator, we find ourselves searching for ways to discover our inner talents and feed our souls. This tie-dye project is designed to enhance our creativity as we merge into the creative side of experimenting with fruits and natural fibers. It focuses on the reflection of how we can interpret one pattern on our own and how we can experiment with colors and fabric. The main factors are understanding that the impression of the fabric can affect the design when you try to change the color or add additional fruits; testing the timing and the position of the colors about the amount of iDye that the fabric will soak in; and believing in the process of being creative, healing my inner child, and embracing the beauty as seen through my eyes.

History

Through this project, I was more focused on just experimenting with two solid colors such as blue and yellow. To enhance the colors, I decided to use natural blueberries to create the most beautiful range of summery blues and purples. As for the yellow, I added powdered turmeric which helped yield a warm gold color on undyed natural fabrics such as cotton, silk, and wool. I purchased three yards of silk fabric at the A K Fabric Inc. store

located in the fashion district in Manhattan for \$45, and I feel as if it was an inexpensive price for one yard. I cut it into three pieces of fabric. I used one fabric piece to experiment and the other two will be used as my creative pieces. I also purchased two packs of Jacquard iDye fabric dye, which helps

Figure 1, Supplies



enhance the colors in the fabric (one yellow & one blue) for \$3.50 each. iDye can be used without a washing machine by using hot water that produces brilliant colors on any natural fabric. iDye may be used on the stovetop or in the washing machine on the hottest cycle. The company has been reliably operating for the past year and a half for its consumers. The range of the two colors that I selected produced a variety of colors such as green, blue, brown, yellow, purple, and gold. Throughout the process, I mostly focused on the amount of iDye being used, as I was also adding the natural fruits in each container with the water to enhance my color with iDye.

Color in Fashion Today

My favorite color is maroon. I feel like colors have always resonated

Figure 2, Marimekko Collections '23



with me, with my moods, and my personality.

As I began this project, I was to create a piece that included dark purple; I knew that blueberries are a natural fruit with enhanced color and that the inside of the fruit is purple and it stains that same color. At first, I researched dresses that were purple and gold but I didn't feel inspired. I loved the design of the dresses but I did not seem to find a pattern

that matched the tie-dye patterns. I found the designs by Marimekko very inspiring with its shades of colors and floral patterns. Marimekko Oyj is a Finnish textiles, clothing, and home furnishings company founded by Viljo and Armi Ratia in Helsinki in 1951. The company made

important contributions to the fashion industry in the 1960s. On their website, they are advocates for positive change through fairness and equality and timeless designs that bring joy for generations to come:

“It’s deeply rooted in our company's DNA to promote fairness and equality in the world around us. We aim to increase the transparency of our products and drive positive change through our own operations and industry collaborations.”

The two pieces that inspired me for this project were the two images presented to the left. I loved the shades of blue and yellow. It also creates two flowers with a shade of nude in the lower center of the jacket. In the above image, I loved the dark shade of blue and how strong and rich the background of the jacket is, giving it a solid contrast to the design. I felt that the print of the large petals of the flower gave me a strong impression and the black rectangles gave the design a different perspective. I can see myself through the length, the style, and the collar of the jacket. I love long trench coats, especially with designs.

Tutorial: Dyeing Process

I began washing all three yards with warm water and baking soda. I left it overnight under the fan so the fabric would be ready for testing. The following day, I began making a different quantity of resistance in each fabric. I began testing the colors by adding water, blue iDye, and blueberries in a container, to find the balance between the fabric soaking up the proper amount of iDye to the shade of blue not getting too dark. I sprayed vinegar into the area I was testing to help strengthen the color and make it long-lasting. As I was able to find the consistency in the shade of blue, I wrapped each resistance

Figure 3, Silk fabric with Resistance Pattern

with plastic bags to designate certain areas of the fabric with iDye. I used iDye on the base of each of the fabrics with the colors blue, yellow, and mustard yellow. I wrapped each portion of the fabric very tight with yarn rope and let it sit overnight. My method of pattern was making four



resilience in the shape of a square but I would leave enough fabric to be able to connect all four points into a bigger resistance pattern.

The following morning I opened up all three pieces, the tester, and the two fabrics that connected to the project. I noticed that two of the fabrics had the shades of the color that I wanted, but the third piece was very dark. I wanted a mustard yellow as a base color but it was more of a shade of almost brown. I used three separate containers, one for yellow, the other for blue, and lastly, the third for the mix of blue and yellow that creates greens. I began gently tapping each part of the area of the fabric to the containers without any

Figure 4, Tie-Dye Fabric wrapped in Yarn



sequence of order. I focused on making sure the fabric absorbed enough color. On the fabric that became very dark, I began compressing the blueberries with my nails on the fabric at the same time. I noticed that the color was still not changing so I decided to leave seven berries sitting on the

fabric for about 3 minutes which gave the fabric the time that it needed to absorb the purple stain juicy that is found naturally on the inside of the fruit. I spent a lot of time on this piece, digging my nails inside the container with the fruits and rubbing it against the fabric. At times, I would splash iDye on the fabric and rub one end of the fabric on the other.

Findings

Figure 5, Only my Son knows the song of my heartbeat and he sings it when my memory fails

Throughout the process of testing the colors, I allowed my inner child to feel free. I felt so connected as I continued experimenting throughout the process—but I don't know which piece is my favorite since I love both. I love the blue piece because it gives me the impression of clouds or the sea with different shapes that remind me of waves. I created seven points in this piece to represent my son. He was born on the seventh of September and his favorite color is blue. The soft yellow represents me as his mother, with my light of love and protection.



The second piece expressed exactly how I have been feeling these couple of weeks, uncertain and scared of what the future holds. I feel as if I am always surrounded by fire, and I am constantly trying to find a way to get myself to the safety and relief of the waves of the sea. I get lost in my thoughts with my anxiety and overthinking. I felt a mix of emotions throughout the

process of this piece. I kept looking at the piece, feeling it wasn't enough, and I just kept telling myself that something was missing. I wanted to make it authentic and more of who I am via the inspirational images that I used from Marimekko's collection. Both jackets shared a reflection of my everyday style. I am a petite woman, but I love long coats, over the knee, and up to my calves.

Figure 6, The time has come to turn your heart into a temple of fire



Conclusion

Throughout this project, I learned a variety of ways to create and change colors through natural things. I allowed myself to unwind and get to know my creative side. Fashion and art are combined; all fashion designers are artists in their own right. I accessed my inner child and healed areas of myself that I never knew. I trust my instinct of just using my hands and not being scared of the outcome, believing in my power and my vision to create the art that's within my heart and my mind. I felt as if I was in my element.

References

<https://www.jacquardproducts.com/idye-main>

https://www.marimekko.com/us_en/