

Feeling the Blues Dye Project

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Introduction to Textiles

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Nature has always triumphed over the man made or manufactured. Natural dyes have been the only option for individuals since the dawn of time, and the advantages of naturally generated materials over synthetic is healthier for the environment. Synthetic dye production is easier and faster, typically less expensive but it is also more damaging than natural dye processing. Synthetic dye production releases toxins that are damaging to both humans and the environment.

Since Prehistoric times natural dyes have been employed. Prior to the invention of synthetic dyes, people had to rely on natural sources for their coloring (Yusuf, Shabbir, Faqeer, and Mohammed, n.d). Example of natural dyes include, Turmeric, Onion and Black Beans. The Americas are home to black beans. Black beans have been a mainstay in the meals of Central and South Americans for about 7,000 years (Sandborn, 2021). Domestication began in Peru, in South America. To discuss further, black beans are tiny to medium in size, oval in shape, and have a gleaming black surface, coat with a meaty flavor and a creamy white inside. Black beans are the fastest- growing bean market segment. When using black beans for your natural dye project, a black bean soak produces hues of blue ink ranging from blue green to blue lavender. Black beans were used specifically in the project because of the ranges of blue hue that it supposed to give off. My favorite color is blue and every time I wear the color blue it makes me feel happy and relaxed. My favorite garment is my black sweater that has my favorite color blue, and purple rose embroidered into it. This garment makes me feel comfortable and relaxed. I do dress the way I feel, If I'm feeling happy, I'll throw on something bright in color calm and comfortable and If I am not having the best day, I'll wear a darker color and not much put much thought into

my outfit for the day. I admire Instagram influencer, Jayda Cheaves style. She dresses very girly and comfortable influencing my cute and comfy style.



Jayda Cheaves Instagram Post

Color has always played a significant role in our lives and the development of various cultures. It has an impact on all aspects of our lives, including the clothes we wear. The color blue fell under sumptuary laws. Sumptuary rules were frequently concerned with what people could and could not wear. It served as a distinction between aristocracy and commoners, as well as a means of defining royal relationships. For example, Christians were required to wear blue and Jews were required to wear yellow (Macdonald, 2017) this shows that color was used to separate individuals. Furthermore, the color blue was associated with the heavens.

Process



Scouring process



Boiling the beans

Fabric soaks in vinegar



Black beans used

Cooling fabric with cold water

Covering the fabric with the bean juices

Firstly, I started the scouring process, I boiled water and added a few teaspoons of salt. Once the water boiled, I put in this cotton white half top into the water and let it boil for about 30 minutes. Next, while the fabric was cleansing, I poured a can of beans in a separate pot and filled it up with water until all the beans were covered and let it boil for about 30 minutes. Next, I soaked the fabric in some vinegar for about 30 minutes so that the dye will stick. Then, I covered the fabric into the dye, and let it sit for hours. Lastly, after sitting for hours, I rinsed the fabric with cold water and let it air dry. This is what I got, see results below.



End results

Conclusion

My project did not turn out the way as I expected. I was expecting my white top to turn blue, but the color did not take well. It turned out to be a tint of purple that can only be seen in the

sunlight. I read and followed instructions on two different sites. The process on the two sites were quite the same. My end results but it did not come out the same. Partly because I used slightly different materials. Maybe if I would have used soda ash instead of salt and dried beans instead of can beans it would have produced a better outcome.

I learned that natural dyeing is not as simple as it seems. Different fabrics and dyeing processes take differently so we need to find one that works best.

References

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