

# Lisa Binkley's Botanical Printing & Dyeing Workshop

## 5-Day Workshop Description & Supply List

### Workshop Description:

Dyeing with plant pigments and other natural materials (insects, lichen, etc.) has been practiced and refined for thousands of years—for as long as humans have made cloth and wished to beautify it. Printing with plants has been practiced for generations through such traditions as Easter egg decoration and, in the past few decades, as a way to create pattern and imagery on fabric.

During this workshop students learn about the history of dyeing and printing with plants; how to prepare fabric/fiber for dyeing and printing; ways to secure and alter dye color on cloth; and many ways to get patterns and images on fabric with a variety of plant materials. We begin by gathering as many of our printing and dyeing plants as possible from the area surrounding the workshop (depending on location and time of year). Then we explore dyeing solid and mottled colors with botanical pigments both individually and in combination; printing plant materials onto fabrics; eco-printing and dyeing together; and using some simple shibori techniques in conjunction with eco-printing and dyeing.

### Supply List:

- \* Up to 5 yards total of **undyed** fabric to be dyed and/or printed. It can be protein fibers: wool, silk; and plant fibers: cotton, linen, rayon/viscose; a blend of natural fibers (no synthetics), or some of each. I recommend at least some protein fibers as well as plant fibers. If you're using wool, lighter-weight wool such as gabardine, challis, or suiting fabric is ideal; wool flannel is also a nice option but is a heavier fabric. Fabrics will NEED to be fully cleaned/scoured ahead of time. Instructions for doing this will be sent out in advance of the workshop.
- \* Up to 5 yards of plain, undyed natural fabrics to be used as dye/modifier “blankets” (muslin, inexpensive woven cotton, cotton flannel, and vintage linens are ideal for this purpose). These should also be scoured.
- \* Fabric scissors
- \* A measuring tape or long ruler (approx. 24")
- \* 1-3+ pairs of fitted vinyl or rubber gloves
- \* Clothes that can get messy, as well as closed-toed shoes
- \* A spool of strong but not bulky, undyed string or sturdy, non-stretch yarn such as crewel embroidery yarn (white or off white)
- \* A pen or pencil for taking notes
- \* ONLY IF YOU LIVE NEAR THE WORKSHOP SITE: A variety of leaves you love; good options for printing are: all kinds of oak leaves, all kinds of maple leaves (especially Japanese maple leaves), catalpa leaves; peony leaves, rose leaves, raspberry leaves, strawberry leaves, eucalyptus leaves and seeds; fern fronds; perennial geranium leaves; other thin but sturdy and heavily-veined leaves.