

Basic Shibori

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While steeped in the Japanese culture, shibori is not hard to learn. It is time consuming, and it takes practice, but it is not impossible. If you can do the running stitch, you can do a lot of stitched shibori techniques. Shibori has been around since the eighth century, so it can be used for historical re-creation groups.

Shibori - It's Like Bagpipes

Huh? What does shibori have to do with bagpipes? Most everyone associates bagpipes with Scotland. In the past, bagpipes were also in Germany, France, Ireland, and England because they were a communication tool of war. When other communication tools became available, the need for bagpipes faded.

Shibori techniques are practiced in other countries under different names, and they use materials at hand, but they have many of the same patterns.

Shibori Types

Arashi (Pole)

Fabric is wrapped on a hard tube (such as a wine bottle)/pole to create patterns.

Binding

Uses thread to bind the fabric to get the resist.

Itajime (Clamping)

Uses blocks or shapes of wood to achieve a desired resist when clamped or bound tightly.

Shaped Needle (Stitched)

Uses a needle and thread to manipulate the fabric to achieve the desired resist. Sometimes, a flexible tube or rope is used to support the fabric to get a desired effect.

Wikipedia has more information for getting your feet wet, but it is not complete.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shibori>

Recommended Books

Shibori: The Inventive Art of Japanese Shaped Resist Dyeing - Tradition Techniques Innovation

by Yoshiko Wada, Mary Kellogg Rice, and Jane Barton

Publisher: Kodansha International Ltd. Tokyo, New York and San Francisco

ISBN 0-87011-559-6

ISBN4-7700-1063-X C0072 Y13000E (in Japan)

Copyright in Japan 1983 (Hardbound is out of print and difficult to find.)

Paperback version

ISBN 4-7700-2399-5

Copyright 1999 (Readily available but has fewer color photographs.)

Shibori: A Beginner's Guide to Creating Color & Texture on Fabric by Lynne Caldwell

Another good book if you can't find either of the Wada books.

Other Resources

I have written some articles for the Virtual Costumer, the newsletter of Silicon Web - the Internet-based chapter of the International Costumers Guild. The community newsletter is available to everyone at:

http://www.siwcostumers.org/vc_contents.html

Shibori related articles are in:

Eastern Meets Western Dyeing Techniques, August 2011, Volume 9, Issue 3, pp 38-43

Shibori Project, October 2003, Volume 1, Issue 5, pp 3 -14

Surface Design Association (SDA)

<http://www surfacedesign.org/>

Surface Design refers to any process that gives structure, pattern, or color to fiber and fabric. These include spinning, felting, papermaking, weaving, knotting, netting, looping, dyeing, painting, stitching, cutting, piecing, printing, quilting, and embellishing.

Peninsula Wearable Arts Guild (PenWAG) in Campbell, CA (San Francisco Bay Area)

<http://www.penwag.org/>

A group that brings designers of artful clothing and accessories together.