



Indigo and Resist Dyeing

Performance, Metaphor and Materiality in Contemporary Cloth

Linda Brassington

Foreword by Lesley Millar MBE

'There is a striking visual poetry in the way that Brassington uses images: silence is palpable in the light and tactile weight of fabric; a sense of choreographed movement in the images of process; something elegiac in the indigo footprints that mark the routes between workstations.' *CRAFT RESEARCH*

'Packed with new insights, deep-seated knowledge and wonderfully rich and evocative writing, Brassington offers her readers a rich space for exploration – you will be seduced.' *CATHERINE DORMOR, UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER, UK, AND TEXTILE ARTIST*

'A delightfully holistic approach to the overarching breadth of indigo and resist dyeing. A rare anthropological perspective, and the first time I have seen an exploration that brings together such a wide range of performative outputs and practitioners, from traditional to contemporary.' *KEVIN KISSELL, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, USA*

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Contemporary textile artist and researcher Linda Brassington provides an unexpected and expansive critical perspective on the practices, meanings and heritage of a global textile technique.

Drawing connections across disciplines from visual arts to anthropology, Brassington provides a distinctly different alternative approach to the historical, technical and ethnographic accounts available. International case studies from traditional and contemporary artists, practitioners and performers take us through workshops, studios and dye rooms from England to Central Europe and Japan. Steeped in this practical and contextual understanding of the process, Brassington probes the visual and sensory language of her practice, the cultural anthropology of its formation, and the metaphorical and personal resonances of its materials, techniques, rhythms, and performative gestures.

At the heart of her study lies a bold redefinition of intangible cultural heritage, one that recognizes artistic techniques and processes as living expressions of cultural identity and artistry. Moving beyond the transmission of skills and knowledge, her lyrical accounts reveal indigo and resist dyeing as a sensory space of lived experience alongside material, colour and cloth, and make this innovative study an essential read for scholars, students, and practitioners alike.

Linda Brassington, PhD, is an independent artist and researcher, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Churchill Trust. She has an extensive career as a practitioner and educator in printed and dyed textiles, primarily as former Senior Lecturer at UCA Farnham, UK. Her work has received awards from the British Council, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Pasold Research Fund, Society of Dyers and Colourists and the Dyers Company, and has contributed to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

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