

Pleats sewn into place are called tucks.

Slashing

This technique leads itself to large scale work with the freedom to make dramatic compositional statements as well as subtle colour and textural details.

GATHERING

It is commonly used in clothing to manage fullness, as when a full sleeve is attached to the arm or cuff of a shirt, or when a skirt is attached to a bodice.

WEAVING

While the term *weaving* is most often used for the process of making fabric, there are other variations, including basket weaving, in which straw or grasses are woven together.

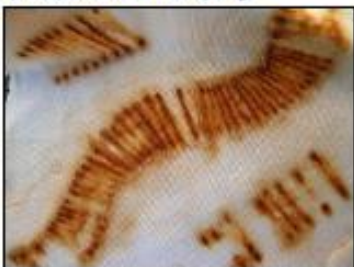
RUST

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Printing & Dyeing

Iron is a metal that oxidizes when it comes in contact with air and moisture. When this happens, the surface becomes red or brown due to the formation of iron oxides.

Fabric placed in contact with this rusty surface quickly absorbs the colour, and develops a permanent print that is almost impossible to remove. This is the principle behind rust dyeing.



Block Printing

There are many different techniques, but it is essentially using a carved material covered in ink to transfer an image on to paper or fabric. Block printing can be done with wood, linoleum, rubber, or many other materials, but I use linoleum for my work.

Images that are printed with this technique are typically much bolder than other types of printmaking; since the blocks are carved by hand, there is often less detail and more texture to the prints.

Block printing is also known as "relief printing" because the ink leaves a raised texture on the paper; typically block printing is done by hand, so the ink sits on the surface adding a raised texture to the paper.



Screen Printing

Screen printing is the process of transferring a stencilled design onto a flat surface using a mesh screen, ink and a squeegee.

The basic method involves creating a stencil on a fine mesh screen, and then pushing ink through to create an imprint of your design on the surface beneath.

Designs made using the screen printing technique may use just one shade of ink, or several. In the case of multi-coloured items, the colours must be applied in individual layers, using separate stencils for each ink.



LINO PRINTING

Lino printing is a form of fine art printmaking where the printing plate is cut into lino.

The lino is then inked, a piece of paper placed over it, and then run through a printing press or pressure applied by hand to transfer the ink to the paper. The result, a linocut print. Because it's a smooth surface, the lino itself doesn't add texture to the print.



Shibori

A Japanese manual resist dyeing technique, which produces a number of different patterns on fabric.

There are an unlimited number of ways to create *shibori*; the cloth can be bound, stitched, folded, twisted, clamped and compressed. Each method that is used is done in harmony with the type of cloth to create beautiful surface designs. Fabrics have all different characteristics so the method must be chosen wisely to achieve the desired effect. The results are endless and can be as simple or as elaborate as you please.



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BATIK

The art of decorating cloth in this way, using wax and dye, has been practised for centuries.

To make a batik, selected areas of the cloth are blocked out by brushing or drawing hot wax over them, and the cloth is then dyed. The parts covered in wax resist the dye and remain the original colour. This process of waxing and dyeing can be repeated to create more elaborate and colourful designs. After the final dyeing the wax is removed and the cloth is ready for wearing or showing.

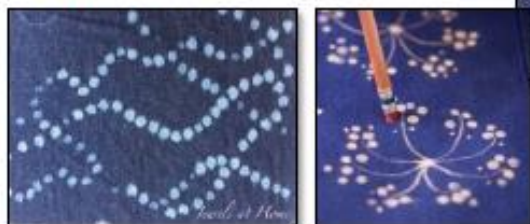
Contemporary batik, while owing much to the past, is markedly different from the more traditional and formal styles. For example, the artist may use etching, discharge dyeing, stencils, different tools for waxing and dyeing, wax recipes with different resist values and work with silk, cotton, wool, leather, paper or even wood and ceramics.



BLEACH

There is a variety of ways to remove colour (the technical term is discharge) from dyed fabric, but for controlled results on all kinds of fabric you generally need lots of experience and testing, plus some highly toxic chemicals.

It can be much safer, and certainly a lot more fun, to simply experiment with the less-predictable but still compelling effects of applying ordinary household bleach to dark, natural-fibre fabrics, either by spraying or brushing the bleach on flat fabric (Resist-and-spray technique), or by dipping the fabric in it, after protecting part of the surface in some way from contact with the bleach (Wrap-and-dip and Pipe-wrapping techniques).

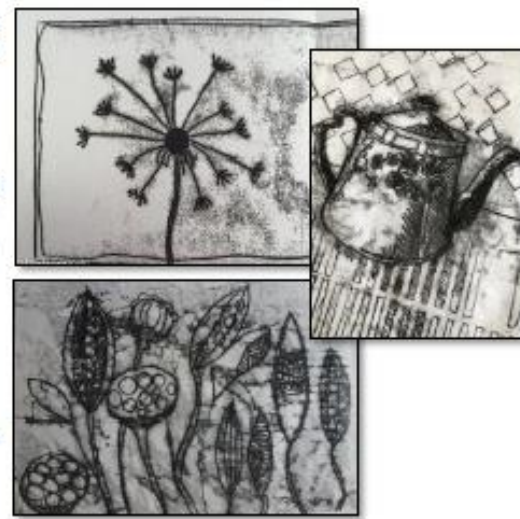


MONO PRINTING

Monoprinting is a form of printmaking that has lines or images that can only be made once, unlike most printmaking, which allows for multiple originals.

A monoprint is a single impression of an image made from a reprintable block. Materials such as metal plates, litho stones or wood blocks are used for etching upon. Rather than printing multiple copies of a single image, only one impression may be produced, either by painting or making a collage on the block.

Monoprints are known as the most painterly method among the printmaking techniques; it is essentially a printed painting.^[4] The characteristic of this method is that no two prints are alike. The beauty of this medium is also in its spontaneity and its combination of printmaking, painting and drawing media.



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Surface Decoration

Appliqué

While it features elements of embroidery, this craft combines smaller pieces of fabric that are then sewn or glued onto a larger piece of fabric. Together, they form a pattern or picture. In this way, it's similar to collage; you are mixing patterns and fusing shapes to create compositions.

Appliqué can be completed on a sewing machine or by hand. Common embroidery stitches are used to adhere the multiple materials together, and they can add even more decorative accents to the work.

PATCHWORK

Patchwork, also called piecing, the process of joining strips, squares, triangles, hexagons, or other shaped pieces of fabric (also called patches), by either hand or machine stitching, into square blocks or other units.

It is one of the primary construction techniques of quilting and is often combined with **appliqué**.

In constructing the quilt top the pieced blocks may be stitched together, alternated with blocks cut from a single fabric, or separated by long strips of fabric known as sashing.

The blocks may be arranged in a wide variety of settings, including rotated 90 degrees "on point." Pieced or plain border strips are often added to complete the quilt top. In the crazy quilt the patches are of irregular size and shape; like crazy blocks, string-pieced blocks, formed of strips of fabric, are sewn to a fabric or paper foundation.

REVERSE APPLIQUE

A technique in which two pieces are sewn together by hand or machine, then the top layer is cut revealing the fabric layer underneath.

The fabric edge can be left raw or the raw edges are turned under and stitched.

Reverse appliqué is often used with applique as two techniques that compliment each other.

3D SHIBORI

Shibori is the Japanese word for a range of ways of transforming textiles by shaping cloth and dyeing it.

We normally think of cloth as a two-dimensional surface, but with shibori it is given a three-dimensional form in various ways: folding, crumpling, stitching, plaiting, or plucking and twisting.

3D shibori is a technique for adding texture to textiles by exploiting the thermoplastic qualities of some synthetic fabrics. Polyester, for example, is perfect for this.

Like shibori dyeing techniques, it often involves wrapping, twisting, pleating, folding, and binding fabric into shapes with thread. When you wrap and twist polyester into shapes and then boil it, once it has dried out the fabric will maintain the shape it was boiled or steamed in.



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Surface Decoration - Embroidery

Free Machining

Sewing on a machine without the machine's control of fabric direction. 'Drawing' with thread on fabric.

This is when you remove the feeder dogs from the machine and 'draw' with the thread. You need a specific foot for this and you should use a hoop to keep the fabric flat with the correct tension.

What else can you do?

- Use dissolvable fabric.
- Use different fabrics to create layers.
- Be quite precise or be messy.
- Experiment with different threads on the bobbin.
- 'Draw' straight onto the fabric.
- You can build layers and layers of thread on top of each other to create depth.
- Change the tension on the machine.
- Why not try sewing without a hoop?

QUILTING

Patchwork and quilting are often mentioned in the same breath, as they are often combined in the same project, but they are two very different techniques.

Quilting is the sewing together of the three layers that make up a quilt - the top, the central wadding, and the backing. Stitches can be utilitarian - basic stab stitch - or worked in delicate patterns.



Couching

Couching requires a thread or other material to be laid on the surface of the fabric, and fastened in place with small stitches of the same or a different thread.



Hand Embroidery

Embroidery is the craft of decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to apply thread or yarn.

Embroidery may also incorporate other materials such as pearls, beads, quills, and sequins. In modern days, embroidery is usually seen on caps, hats, coats, blankets, dress shirts, denim, dresses, stockings, and golf shirts.

Some of the basic techniques or stitches of the earliest embroidery are chain stitch, buttonhole or blanket stitch, running stitch, satin stitch, cross stitch. Those stitches remain the fundamental techniques of hand embroidery today.

