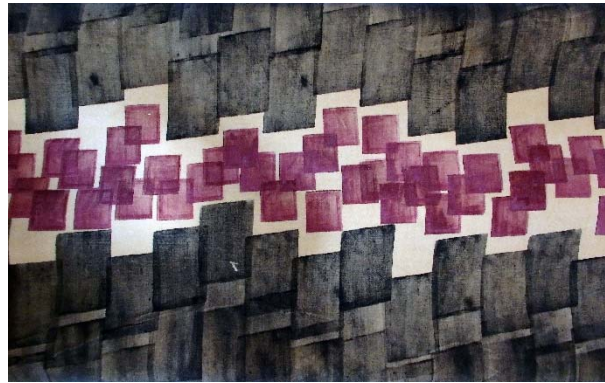


This workshop provides a unique opportunity to learn about authentic Japanese woodblock print fabric dyeing through face to face dialogue with Master Tetsuo Koyama, visiting from Japan. You will also create your own textile piece. Please do not miss this extremely rare four-day intensive workshop.

History of Japanese woodblock printing

Woodblock printing is one of the ancient fabric arts that began in the eighth century. Printing iconic patterns on solid colour fabrics was widely employed to decorate outer garments for

dignitaries. Around the 18th century the technique died out when stencil dyeing, which is more suitable for mass production, became commoner than the much more time-consuming and expensive woodblock dyeing. In the 1950s, Tetsuo revived the technique with his kimonos that have been highly recognized as one of the most important features of cultural heritage of Japan.



Tetsuo's woodblock dyeing workshop

Tetsuo traditionally uses Japanese magnolia or Japanese cherry to carve his woodblocks. He employs small pieces of wood which can easily be held in one hand and hammered with the other to press the pigments into the fabric. For this workshop, he tested and will be using local yellow cedar, which is also appropriate for this method.

Prior to the four-day workshop, registered participants will be provided one orientation session by Yuko Yamamoto, a fabric artist and Tetsuo's teaching assistant, who lives on Vancouver Island. Yuko will guide students in preparing their own designs to bring to the first day of the workshop.

Tetsuo encourages the students to make their own designs by exploring their frames of mind, imagery and themes; he says that each person will naturally

discover their own expression using just a small number of woodblocks. He also brings samples for some students who might prefer to work from the designs by Tetsuo. In that case the students will still have a lot of opportunity to be original - they will choose colours to dye and print with woodblocks in their own ways.



Content of the four-day workshop

This workshop introduces various traditional tools and materials, such as rice glue resist, Nori-zutsu (a utensil to draw with the rice glue resist) and shinshi (resilient bamboo bars to stretch a sheet of fabric). Students will decorate a 15" x 20" piece of fine cotton fabric using these traditional tools. The contents of the four-day workshop are as follows:

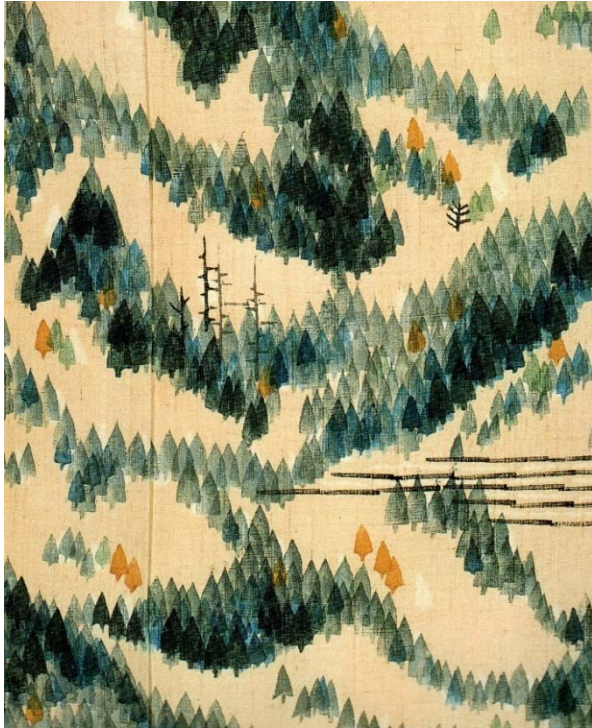
Day 1: After the final discussion of each design, trace the design onto a fabric using a brush and

spiderwort extract. Trace the patterns onto yellow cedar and then carve woodblocks.

Day 2: Mix colours of the pigment and print patterns with woodblocks.

Day 3: Mask the patterns with rice glue.

Day 4: Apply base coat and background dye. Steam the fabric to set the dye; wash the glue off.



Workshop participants are encouraged to be creative; for example, depicting woods on a mountain by printing each tree one by one as in the image above. Tetsuo will assist participants to choose appropriate methods of printing their designs as well as instructing participants in the use of rice glue resist. Rice glue resists can be used to mask out the background fabric, creating expressive white lines or patterns that retain the original color of the fabric.

Who might participate?

Anyone who likes creating woodblock print dyeing is welcome. Instructors will assist participants who need specific help in the process of creating their final pieces. If you have any questions before registering, please email Yuko Yamamoto at yuko@sewyuzen.com or yukoya@hotmail.com



Students' woodblock print dyeing pieces at Higashi Chikushi college

Instructors' profiles



Tetsuo Koyama is an artist in Japanese woodblock print and hand-drawing yuzen dyeing. Living in his birth place of Japan, Tetsuo now 84, continues to create new works and present them annually, relentlessly seeking the universal beauty of his Japanese dyeing arts. He

obtained a BA from Tama Art University in 1957; there he studied design under Keisuke Serizawa, one of the most prominent Japanese artists of the 20th century. In his early teen years, Tetsuo was trained in authentic Japanese kimono fabric dyeing techniques by his father, on whom was bestowed the title: "Holder of Important Intangible Cultural Property in Japanese Dyeing Art". Tetsuo is an important art educator who has taught countless fabric artists in academic settings and has encouraged them to be original, rather than remain limited to traditional methods and aesthetics. This is Tetsuo's second visit to Vancouver Island after teaching

a five-day intensive workshop in Cowichan Valley in 2014.

Yuko Yamamoto is a Japanese multidisciplinary artist who has lived in the Cowichan Valley for 5 years. She studied dyeing art under Master Tetsuo Koyama in Tokyo and assisted Tetsuo in teaching his workshop on the Island in 2014. A graduate of the School of Art Institute of Chicago, she obtained her Masters in 2000 and presented her work in Japan, Canada, the United States, Singapore, and Finland. She tries to integrate the highly traditional Japanese fabric dyeing art into her contemporary works. Now, she teaches art in her home studio on Vancouver Island.



Dates, fee, location and registration

Orientation: September 9th (1 pm - 3:30 pm)

Workshop: September 25th to 28th (10 am - 5 pm)

Participation and material Fee : \$575 (Tax not included)

Workshop location and registration: Coast Collective (Unit 103 – 318 Wale Road Colwood BC Canada) 250-391-5522 www.coastcollective.ca

