

# ART LAB AT HOME!

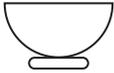
## ECO-DYEING WITH MERILL COMEAU



We're excited to welcome artist Merrill Comeau as a guest contributor for this week's Art Lab at Home! Merrill is the mixed-media fiber artist behind the current Bank of America Art Lab installation *Threads of Connection*. We welcome you to try eco-dyeing: The process of adding color to fabrics using plant matter. This is a fun way to reuse and recycle supplies you have on hand, like old fabrics, leftover veggies and fruit, and even coffee grounds!

Designed for kids and grown-ups to do together. This activity involves the use of a hot stovetop. Experiment with measuring, cooking, and color to create a vibrant result.

### YOU WILL NEED

					
<p>Pre-washed white or light-colored cotton fabric cut into squares 8x8 inches.</p>	<p>Soaking bucket and/or bowls</p>	<p>Salt /white vinegar</p>	<p>Aluminum saucepan</p>	<p>Tongs/ wooden spoon</p>	<p>Plant sources for color: Old berries, yellow vegetable peelings, onion skins, turmeric, beets, purple cabbage, tea, or coffee – Experiment!</p>

# STEPS



1

## PREPARE YOUR FABRIC

Treat your fabric with a mordant to help the dye to adhere to your fabric.

*To create mordant:*

For berries: Combine  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of salt + four cups cold water.

For plant materials: Combine 1 cup vinegar + four cups cold water. Soak your fabric in mordant for one hour.

Remove and rinse your fabric with cold water, no need to dry it as you can dye it damp!



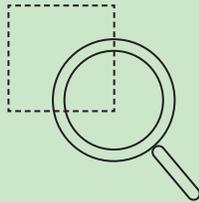
2

## PREPARE YOUR DYE

Generally, you'll want to add 1 cup of plant material to 2 cups of water in your aluminum pan.

Feel free to experiment!

Bring your concoction to a slow simmer on your stove top. You will see the water becoming colorful in just 20-30 minutes.



3

## ADD THE FABRIC TO THE DYE

You can either strain and discard the plant materials and then add your fabric to the remaining dye solution or add your fabric directly to the simmering pot

*(Merill likes to add her fabric to the pot as the heat helps set the stain).*

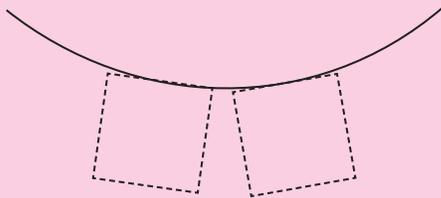


4

## SOAK YOUR FABRIC.

Remove your fabric after one hour or keep it soaking overnight as the dye sets and cools.

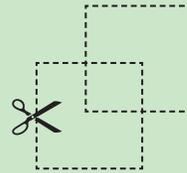
Experiment with soaking times and see if your results differ!



5

## RINSE YOUR FABRIC

with cold water and let it air dry. If you'd like, you may iron your fabric on the cotton heat setting.



6

## READY TO MAKE SOMETHING WITH YOUR ECO-DYED FABRIC?

Check out our site for suggestions for hand sewing projects. Or create a fabric collage for the *Threads of Connections* digital quilt!

SHARE YOUR ARTWORK ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH #ICAARTLAB