

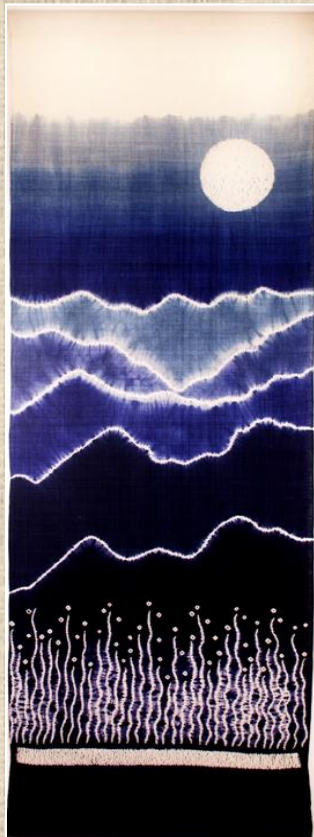
INTRODUCTION of MONOLEENA BANERJEE

Professional Background:

Monoleena Banerjee is a textile professional. She has worked intensively with a multitude of Craftspeople, Textile and Design institutes, Museums, Textile Resource Centers and other textile experts in India & abroad. Research & Development, paper presentations, conducting workshops on resist dyeing with chemical & natural dyes in India & abroad and lecturing as a visiting / guest lecturer at different organizations has been a vital part of her profession for more than two decades. Besides this,

Monoleena has nurtured and developed the textile production unit of about sixty people at 'RANGEEN-III' the **production unit of Weavers Studio, Kolkata** - as **Chief Designer and Administrative Head from 1995 to 2012** with Introduction, development and execution of different new methods in printing, weaving, shibori, surface decoration, felting and knitting and got opportunity to interact and develop designs for leading National and International brands and Designers.

During this tenure many students from textile and fashion institutes of India and abroad had the opportunity to complete their **Industrial Internship under her supervision** for almost eighteen years.



Today, she is working as a freelance textile artist, designer & textile consultant and creates both wearable & art textiles, based in Kolkata, India.

As a textile professional she has worked with a vast array of **surface decorations; ranging from traditional heritage methods to contemporary design explorations**. She has worked mainly with different textile creations and decoration techniques or "made by hand" mediums throughout her career as well as with natural fibers such as silk cotton, wool etc. As an all round professional and for commercial reasons, she has **worked with different chemical dyes but natural dyes is her passion especially Indigo. Practice of resist dyeing including advanced Shibori is her favorite process**. She has visited Japan to learn this technique several times.

In her two-decade textile career she has traveled to different parts of the world such as Japan, USA, England, France, Holland, Scotland, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Australia, China and all over the Indian sub-continent to learn and also share her Knowledge on Natural dyeing, wax resist [batik] printing, shibori, old traditional printing e.g. 'Ajrakh Printing' and different advanced Azo-free printing techniques and felt making.

Photo: "MID NIGHT BLUES": An Indigo Dyed Shibori ART textile by Monoleena Banerjee

Her Participation in the Field of Natural Dyes and Shibori

She has participated and presented papers in many conferences and seminars; here is a glimpse of her participation in the following seminars/conferences:

1] 2000-Contemporary Indigo vats-Hyderabad [India]-presented a paper on comparative studies on Indigo vats of different countries.

In 2000, she joined Jenny Balfour Paul in her search for NEELKUTHIS [old Indigo plantation centers] following a 150 years old Bengal map. In 2015, Jenney has published her book on this search "Deeper than Indigo".

2] 2005-Sansia Indigo festival-Taiwan-presented a paper on INDIGO and conducted two workshops of fifty people on advanced shibori, and multicolor batik.

3] Nov, 2006-International Dye Symposium First ISEND - Hyderabad [India] by Crafts Council of India and UNESCO, published a paper in the Seminar Publication on Bluing [indigo].

4] June, 2008, presented a paper "SHIBORI-Control Dyeing—Unleash Imagination" at Textile center, Minneapolis, USA.

Also her two artworks 1] "shades of Indigo - an eleven meter long shaded Indigo Arashi shibori. 2] "Solid and sheer"-a nine meter triple layer shibori inlay panel was also selected for the exhibition SHIBORI CUT LOOSE.

5] 2011 participated at ISEND international conference on natural dyes held at France [La Rochelle]

April 26th 2011 participated in Round Table talk on INDIGO,
28th April conducted advanced category workshop on dye-demo of multicolor shibori and also participated in the art and fashion show by displaying my three art textiles.

The blue wave - 11mtr Arashi shibori dyed in shades of indigo.

The Solid & sheer-12 meter 3layer inlay panel.

The River-10mtr woven shibori panel dyed in natural indigo.

6] Sept 2012, Paper presentation on Marigold Dyes "Journey of Marigold: Trash to Treasure", Marigold dyeing workshop on intricate shibori at ISEND

2012, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA [was selected by the organizer but the presenter has withdrawn her paper for personal reason].

7] Mar 2013 Presented a paper entitled - "Indigo— Once the color of kings, Now-the king of colors"- in the Technological Conference conducted by the Textile Association [India] at Kennedy Hall, Department of Jute and Fiber Technology, University Of Calcutta .

8] FEB 2014, Paper presentation on Marigold flower as textile and paper Dyestuff: "Journey of Marigold: Waste to Wealth", at 4th SUTRA TEXTILE STUDIES event 'Colours of Nature' held at, ICCR, Kolkata, India.

Also Monoleena was the designer, coordinator and director of the Dye Workshops held at the same conference.

9] MARCH 2014 presented a paper entitled-"Journey of Indigo - Rags to Riches"- Conducted by the Textile Association of India at Kennedy Hall, University of Calcutta.

10] Her paper is "Indigo— once the Color of kings, now--the king of colors presented at 9th International Shibori Symposium [held in CHINA] on Oct 2014

11] 2017, 17th April: Inaugurated Centenary celebration of Champaran Movement by Textile Ministry of India at NIFT, KOLKATA by dyeing cloth in Indigo, and lectured on **INDIGO** as guest lecturer with ppt presentation

On 22nd April concluded the centenary celebration with **Resist dyeing workshop** on with indigo dyeing at **NIFT**.

12] NOV 2017, organizing all workshops as **Workshop Cordinator** for the upcoming **INDIGO SUTRA** -An international conference on natural dyes will be hold in Kolkata. From 9-12th Nov.

Continued to page 4.....

Workshops & Trainings:

Here is some mention of her workshops on different techniques of surface decoration using Indigo and other natural dyes in India & Abroad,



Champan Movement Centenary Celebration with Resist dyeing workshop with indigo dyeing at NIFT, Kolkata, 2017.

Monoleena Banerjee's Shibori workshop with Natural dyes at ISEND 2011 La Rochelle France. Participants in her Shibori workshop at France!

Block printed Batik workshop with Natural Dyes, at Taiwan, 2005



Participants with their creation at Shibori workshops at Indigo revival festival Taiwan 2005



Vocational Training Workshop for Special Children

Block printing workshop as special vocational training for the students of Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy [IICP]



Lectures as Guest:

1] 2011: As a guest lecturer of the day, she presented a PPT presentation on **Diversified Use of**

Natural Dyes in Contemporary Fashion & Textile Designing for the final year students of **National Institute of Fashion Technology [NIFT]**,



2] 2012: Presented a lecture on **DIFFERENT METHODS OF SURFACE DESIGNING** with PPT presentation for the final year textile students of **National Institute of Fashion Technology [NIFT]**, Kolkata.

3] 2013: Presented a paper on **"Indigo"** [PPT presentation] as guest lecturer at

National Institute of Research on Jute & Allied Fiber Technology [NIRJFT], Calcutta.

4] 17th April 2017, Lectured on **INDIGO** as guest lecturer with ppt presentation.

5] 2017, 22nd April; lecture on **Product Development concepts with KANTHA EMBROIDERY** for **High end market** as guest lecturer at **NIFT** for sixth semester students and invited artisans. Also On 22nd April **concluded the Champaran Movement Centenary Celebration** with **Resist dyeing workshop** on with indigo dyeing at **NIFT**.