

Shibori-Inspired Fabric Dyeing: The Art of the Reveal

By [Harper Marten](#)

In this resource, Artist Educator Harper Marten explores the ancient fabric-dyeing technique of [Shibori](#) with a group of adults in a dementia care setting. Shibori is a traditional Japanese, hand-dyeing technique involving folding, twisting, stitching, or binding fabric to create resist-dyed patterns. Derived from the verb shiboru ("to squeeze or wring"), it creates lasting, intricate designs on cloth, traditionally using indigo.

This activity involves a series of gentle, tactile processes; applying pigments and dyes, and submerging materials in water. These steps make it an effective, process-led activity that offers rich sensory feedback. The striking visual transformations also create an element of surprise, motivating learners throughout. By focusing on the process rather than the final product, the activity encourages learners to engage with curiosity and confidence.

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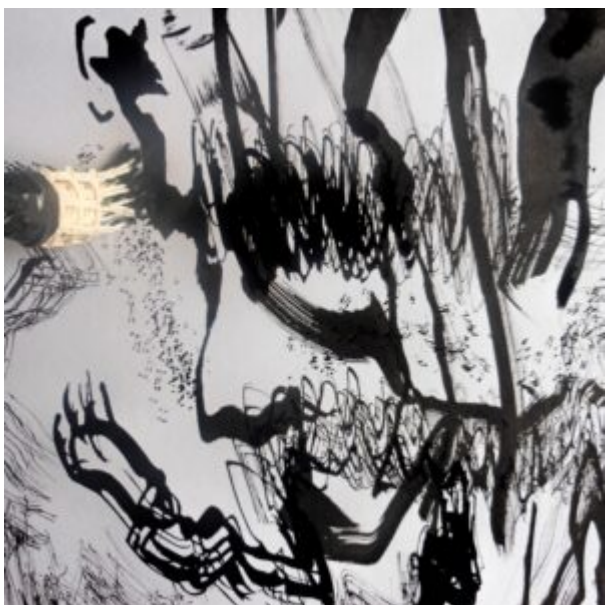
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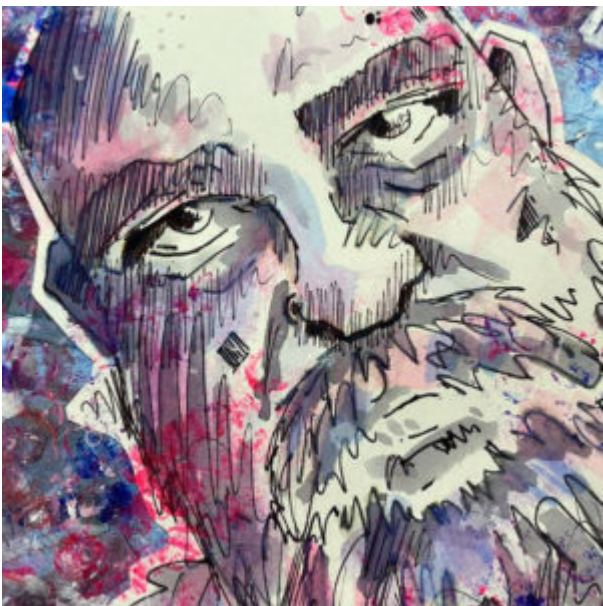
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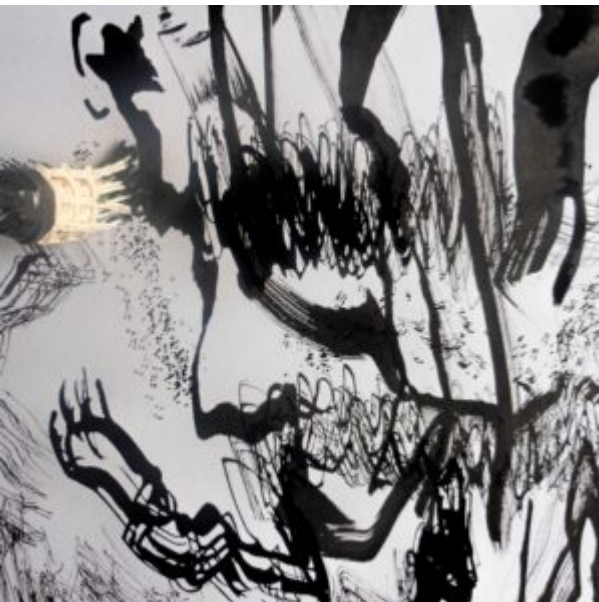


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"I love this resource because I can picture the energy in the classroom whilst students enjoy the process of mark-making using their feet. Creating drawings with parts of the body other than hands can be really freeing; students will hopefully look at their drawings in a less critical way, with the emphasis of the activity being more about the process than the outcome. It might be a nice addition to use a viewfinder to zoom in on areas where the marks collide in interesting ways" – Tobi, AccessArt.

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What We Like About This Resource

“This is a great activity to get students to think about drawing in a different way. Extending reach and accepting a lack of control can lead to really exciting and energised mark-making. It’s great to see that this resource has also been used in SEND settings, demonstrating its accessibility.” – Tobi, AccessArt.

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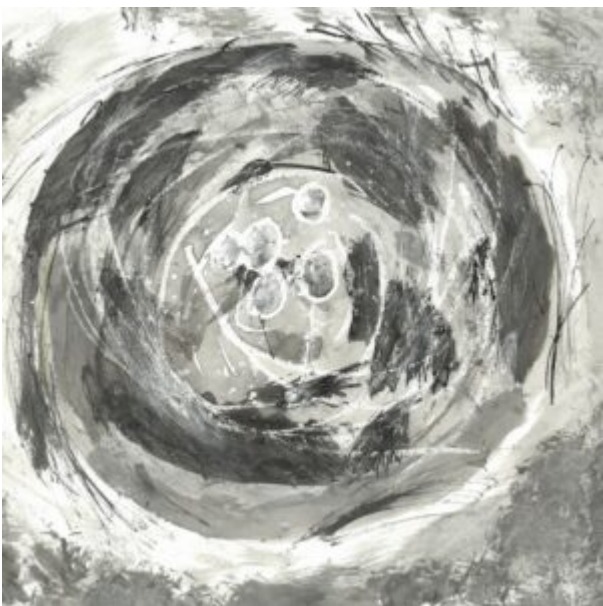


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