

# Welcome



## Traditional Yoruba Adire Eleko & Tie Dye

**G25090301**

with Gasali Adeyemo

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My name is Gasali Adeyemo. I am the third born of five from a small rural village, Ofat-  
edo, located in Osun State Nigeria. I use the traditional Yoruba methods of Batik, Adire  
Eleko and Tie-dye in my art that the people of my tribe have been using for a very long  
time. Each of the designs I use in my fiber art were passed down through the genera-  
tions, they each have specific meanings.

The indigo that I use to dye the fabric is also very important in my culture. Indigo has  
been used as a dye in Africa for a very long time. The Yoruba name for indigo is Elu.  
Since the olden days indigo has been used for medicine as well as a dye; it cures an  
upset stomach. Indigo is also used to ward off viruses, houses are painted with indigo  
to prevent the sickness from entering.

From a young age I was interested in art. My mother was the most important teacher  
in my life, she gave me a love of fiber art. From her I learned adire eleko which is the  
oldest resist technique in my culture. I began by just watching her and learning the  
designs and what they represented. She then began letting me prepare the cassava  
paste and finally I began to learn the technique. She also taught me tie-dye. Later,  
when I was older I attended the Nike Center for Arts and Culture, there I learned the  
process of batik and tie-dye.

I enjoy traveling the world conducting workshops and exhibitions. My recent work-  
shops include Aya Fiber Studio, Snow Farm, The New England Craft Program and  
John Campbell Folk School. In the future, I plan to continue to travel worldwide, shar-  
ing the arts and culture of the Yoruba people of Nigeria.