



Traditional Yoruba Batik: Focus on Multiple Colors

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with Gasali Adeyemo
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Welcome!

My name is Gasali Adeyemo. I am the third born of five from a small rural village, Ofatedo, 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 generations, 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, sharing the arts and culture of the Yoruba people of Nigeria.

Each student needs to bring:

- 5 yards of white 100% cotton PFD fabric
- 2 pounds of paraffin wax
- apron
- rubber gloves
- scissors,
- notebook
- pen

*Optional: in addition to the fabric each student can bring a scarf, tote bag or t-shirt as long as they are 100% cotton or silk.