

# Woad

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# What is Woad?

- Woad is a yellow-flowered European plant of the cabbage family.
- It is used as a source of dye, which is extracted from the leaves after they dried, powdered, and fermented.
- I initially just picked Woad because it was one of the few topics with an interesting first letter.



# The Process (Visuals)



# The Results



# The Fabric

- The Woad plant creates an amazingly deep and rich indigo blue.
- The fabric that is produced by it is something I find incredibly beautiful.



# More Examples



This rich indigo color made me think of two other artistic skills that utilize this color.

# Edo Period Porcelain Ceramics

- The first thing I thought about after looking up Woad was Edo Period Porcelain Ceramics.
- Because of the porcelain clay, the rich blue indigo comes out pure after firing, with no interference from the natural color of the clay.



*Tureen with Landscape, Edo Period, Late 17th Century*



# More Examples



*Dish with Parasol Ladies, Design attributed to Cornelis Pronk, Edo Period, 1735-40*



*Incense Burner with Cover, Edo Period, 1750*

I loved the designs done on this porcelain, but I thought it might be too painterly for textile dyeing, so I thought of another art practice.

# Cyanotypes

- This is a photographic printing process that was originally used to produce copies of drawings known as blueprints, created by Anna Atkins.
- You lay down a negative or an object on the painted paper, leave it in the sun, then wash it and put it in a darkroom to get proper results.
- There are also Anthotypes, a similar process made out of the juice of fruits and vegetables.



# More Examples



*Bust of Amelia Over Clear Skies*, Chloe McCarrick



*Untitled*, Ryan Strand Greenberg

# Test Results

