



FARM + FORAGE PIGMENT PROJECT

an art-focused, land-connected movement that speaks to the creative legacy, story of place, and unparalleled beauty inherent in grown & foraged pigments, with the secondary hope of increasing awareness around consumption and the ecological impact of industrial dye production & waste

Project Proposes: 2 dye gardens | forest walks | eco-progressing experimentation | community classes + events | collaborations | products

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PIGMENT PROJECT

THE SYNTHETIC PROBLEM

Synthetic Pigment (defined as pigment made from tar coal and petrochemicals) was only patented in 1859, didn't gain traction until the 1900s, and now accounts for 20% of industrial water pollution when measured for textile dye waste alone. Textile dyeing is one of the most chemically intense industries on the planet. Production uses an incredible amount of water, almost all of which is then rendered toxic, and is largely unregulated waste that destroys waterways.

Ecological impact aside, synthetic pigments (and their related components) are allergens and carcinogens, harming the people working in factories to produce them, and the artists who ultimately use them.

Natural dyes and pigments (defined as pigments made from roots, bark, berries, leaves, soil, etc) are gentler on the planet and people. They create depth and beauty unparalleled by synthetics, and are able to be produced locally- connecting artists with the root of their art, their environment, and their community.

We've gotten away from our age-old recipes and techniques-- the wisdom largely lost to the greater art community. But it's so simple to bring back! Color is all around us. Dyeing wool and silk and linen in vats of botanical richness; watching the magic of acorn ink bloom on handmade watercolor paper; layering multimedia foraged from the backyard into a complex painting... this is all a joy, with the by-product of necessary earth stewardship.

the problem

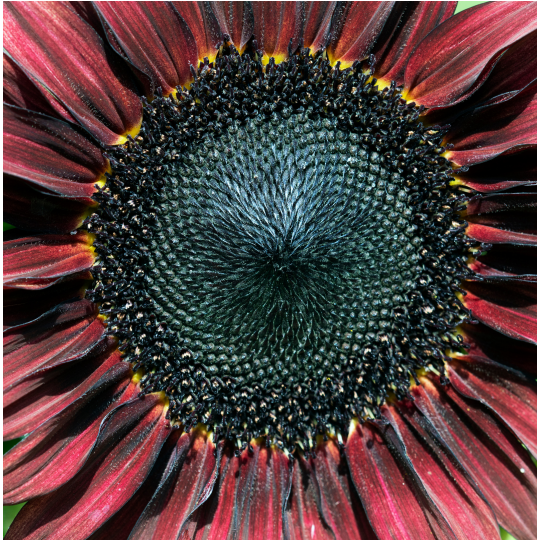
THE VISION



The simpler vision is to reclaim pigment production, textile dyeing, and paint-making at the individual and local level.

The broader vision encompasses education and accessibility... to change the artist mindset towards a slow, rich, and organic creative process that produces an expanded sense of place which in turns inspires a deeper consideration for ecological impact-- doing our small part to disrupt the industrial paradigm in a beautifully synergistic manner.

LAYERS OF IMPACT

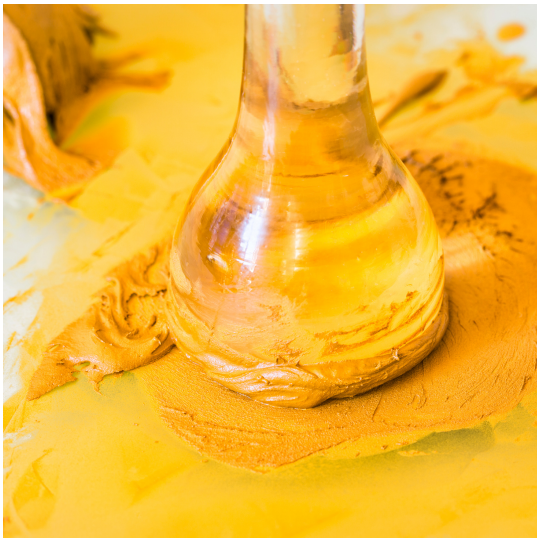


LAYER 1

Production

Products and materials produced for my own artwork, as well as for classes and workshops, and items for the farm shop.

pigment | paper | binders | tools



LAYER 3

Education

Classes, workshops, and other offerings that speak to slow & local artistic process, ecological and consumption awareness, and the story of place in relation to creating.

foraging | speakers | hands-on



LAYER 2

Experimentation

Experiments & research related to the production of natural art supplies and the remediation or reduction of waste.

crops | water | hives | mycodegration



LAYER 4

Collaboration

The necessary interweaving of outside resources & wisdom. Collabs would support & connect us with the folks who are already doing things, or want to do the things, we cannot.

nonprofits | small businesses | folks

GOALS (3 YRS)

Production

- Production Garden in a community plot with 7-8 dye crops
- Seeding Space
- Drying & fermentation area
- Outside Kitchen with water catchment
- Hives for Art (wax & honey as sustainable paint ingredients)
- Micro-scale model for oil producing crops & extraction

Experimentation & Research

- Crop Trials: Safflower, Indigo, and flax (linseed & cloth)
- Harvesting Tree Resins for good Gum Arabic substitute
- Harvesting wax and honey for watercolors
- Researching Water Reclamation & how could apply
- Researching Mycoremediation and bacterial degradation for pigment sludge

Education & Community

- Education Garden near community house (mostly perennials; heavy info signage)
- Classes & Workshops on growing, harvesting, and storing pigment plants
- Workshops on making dyes, pigments, and paints; bundle, pummeled, and steam dyeing
- Art classes and gatherings focused on earth-based art supplies & making
- Foraging pigment walks (trees, plants, myco, lichen, soil)
- Invasive plants as pigment sources (workshop)
- Natural pigments and dyes fest
- Guest speakers on indigenous arts; indigo-slavery connection; reducing ecological impact
- Regularly meeting interest groups

Collaboration

- Conservation collab for invasives (Nature Groupie)
- Local Wool & Fiber Artists
- Community calendar & making connections
- Communal Art Installation
- NH Beekeepers & Hives for Artists Initiative
- Wild Pigment Project (international)
- Peace Paper Project
- Lee McDonald (T-shirt pulp machine)
- Folks doing cool things in other places
- Find local linseed/walnut/safflower oil producer



TIMELINE & METRICS



Year One Goals

- Initial Infrastructure Set Up (seed space, 2 gardens, water catchment, outdoor kitchen)
- Foraging Program Organized
- Start Community Connections
- Produce Art from Project

Year One Metrics

- Is the farm satisfied with the project?
- Did I create the seed space and both gardens?
- Did I produce pigment?
- Did I lead a foraging ink workshop?
- Do I have 4-5 community connections?

Year Two Goals

- Continued Infrastructure Work
- Problem-Solving the Challenges
- Producing Art from Project
- Plan & Start Fund for Artist Apiary
- Increase Class & Workshop Offerings

Year Two Metrics

- Is this still working for the farm?
- Am I able to continue at this pace?
- Have I brought in enough income to offset start-up costs?
- Do I understand my plants better & make useful corrections?
- Do I understand my pigments better & make useful corrections?
- Is the outdoor kitchen efficient?
- Am I collecting 80% of my production water from the rain?
- Did I fill 3 classes?
- Are my connections developing into collaboration possibilities?

Year Three Goals

- Crop Trials Started
- Apiary Launched
- Producing All Art from Project
- Infrastructure is Mostly Working
- Madder Harvest
- First Larger Collab Underway
- 6-10 Classes & Workshops
- Establish Creative Community

Year Three Metrics

- Has this become a synergistic relationship for the farm?
- Am I able to continue at this pace?
- Did I grow enough material for all of the classes & workshops?
- Is the sustainability layer getting enough of my attention?
- Is this financially sustainable, and do I have the time to fundraise if needed?
- Are folks approaching me to volunteer or collaborate?
- Are the experiments & research moving us forward?
- Are collaborations moving us forward?

THE SYNERGY



I want this project to, firstly, bring joy. I want folks to come together in curiosity, and leave with a sense of awe for the simple gifts of human-earth cooperation; a community coalescing around natural beauty. And I want my presence on the farm to be beneficial to you! Setting up the seeding space, clearing a patch of invasives, walking the land with an eye to your non-edible resources, creating infrastructure pieces that can be used by everyone... I'd like to keep that conversation going. The simple project of growing plants into pigment, has the potential for deeper impact, which I think Tuckaway is all about- ha! And it's this synergy that excites me the most.

the synergy
