



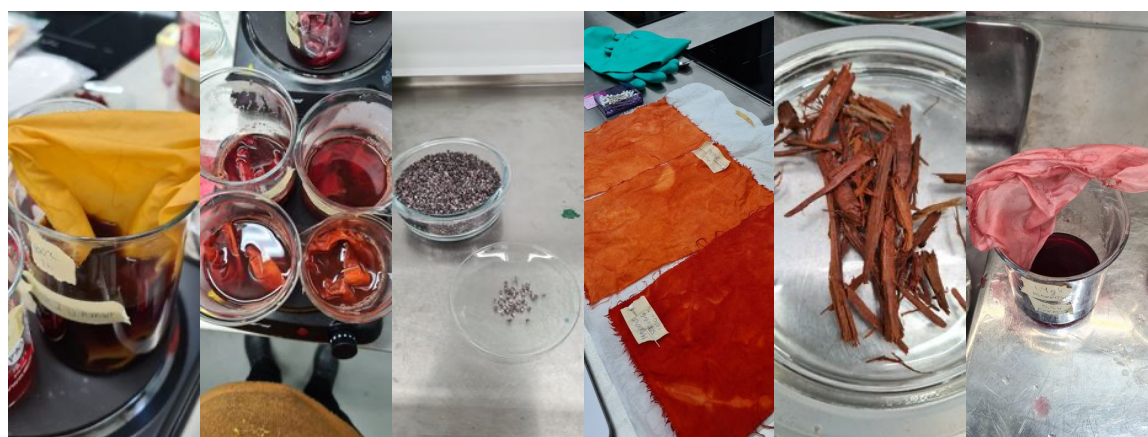
REFASHIONING
THE RENAISSANCE

Dye experiment workshop, 1 – 9 June and 14-29 June 2021

Location: Väre Dye Kitchen, Aalto University

Participants: Paula Hohti, Sophie Pitman, Krista Vajanto (Helsinki University), Piia Lempiäinen, Lena Kingelin

Remote participation possible by volunery knitters



This workshop focuses on the reconstruction of some of the most popular colours of the early seventeenth century that we have found in the Refashioning data, such as golden yellow, black and purple, and investigates what historical recipes could be used to reconstruct these in contemporary setting. The first part of the workshop focuses on the reconstructing the colour of the knitted stockings, created by voluntary knitters within our citizen science project. The aim is to dye 1 silk stocking in black, 1 silk and 1 wool stocking in golden yellow (doré), and a pair of woollen stockings in red. Since the fibre analysis of the original 17th-century silk stocking from Turku demonstrated that it had been originally black, we will investigate, first, how we can achieve a similar stunning black with logwood without risking to damage the silk stocking or failing the result, and then, second, test what kind of golden yellows and reds we can achieve by using fustic and madder. The second part of the workshop investigates the use of Nordic lichen to create purple. We know from documentation that, while ‘pavonazzo’ purple tended to be an expensive colour created by using crimson dyes or cochineal, beautiful purples could be achieved in a cheaper way by using orchil. The preparation involves preparing a lichen vat, which is laborious and time-consuming, so preparations need to be two weeks prior the experimentation. Dr. Krista Vajanto from Helsinki University, who is an expert on historical dyes and their chemical composition, has given us some domestic lichen dye and instructs us in the process.

Part I: Processing and dyeing citizen science knitted stockings

Carried out by Paula Hohti, Sophie Pitman, Citizen Science knitters, and assisted by Piia Lempiäinen

- 27-29 May** Pre-preparations (weeks 20 and 21)
Starting the lichen vat process (Piia and Krista)
- 1 June** Preparations for stocking dyes
Washing and degumming stockings
Soaking dyes for testing (Madder, Fustic)
- 2 June** Mordanting silk and wool stockings (alum mordant)
Preparation of madder and fustic baths for testing (Paula and Sophie)
- 3 June** Test dyes: fustic, madder
Mordanting silk stocking for black (iron-mordant)
Soaking logwood
- 7 June** Stocking dye: Fustic, Madder (Paula and Sophie)
Dressing stockings on a sock block (Paula and Sophie)
- 8 June** Stocking dye: Logwood (Paula and Sophie)
Dressing stocking on a sock block
- 9 June** Finishing stocking experiments
Pre-preparations for workshop II

Part II: Creating orchil with domestic lichen dyes

Carried out by Sophie Pitman, Krista Vajanto, assisted by Lena Kingelin and Piia Lempiäinen

- 14-18 June** Preparations for the lichen dyes to create orchil
Soaking bran water and dyestuffs, aluming textiles
- June 21** Dyeing with madder, kermes, woad and madder (Sophie)
- June 22** Kick-off of lichen dye workshop (assisted by Krista Vajanto)

9am: Discuss plans over coffee
10am: Experiment 1: Orchil Dye – silk, wool, linen
1pm: Lunch
2pm: Experiment 2: Making ‘Morello’ from *Plictho* using orchil on top of kermes, madder, and woad with madder
- June 23-24** Experiment 3: Imitation Orchil and ‘Levant Red’ *Plictho*
- June 28-29** Second baths and notetaking for historical orchil recipes (Sophie)

