

= Batik =

Batik (Javanese pronunciation : [ʔbateʔ] ; Indonesian : [ʔbatʔk]) is a technique of wax @-@ resist dyeing applied to whole cloth , or cloth made using this technique . Batik is made either by drawing dots and lines of the resist with a spouted tool called a canting (IPA : [ʔʔʔantiʔ] , also spelled tjanting) , or by printing the resist with a copper stamp called a cap (IPA : [ʔʔʔap] , also spelled tjap) . The applied wax resists dyes and therefore allows the artisan to colour selectively by soaking the cloth in one colour , removing the wax with boiling water , and repeating if multiple colours are desired .

A tradition of making batik is found in various countries , including Indonesia , Malaysia , Singapore , India , Bangladesh , Sri Lanka , Philippines and Nigeria ; the batik of Indonesia , however , is the best @-@ known . Indonesian batik made in the island of Java has a long history of acculturation , with diverse patterns influenced by a variety of cultures , and is the most developed in terms of pattern , technique , and the quality of workmanship . On October 2009 , UNESCO designated Indonesian batik as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity .

= = Etymology = =

The word batik is Javanese in origin . It may either come from the Javanese word amba (' to write ') and titik (' dot ') , or may derive from a hypothetical Proto @-@ Austronesian root * beCík (' to tattoo ') . The word is first recorded in English in the Encyclopædia Britannica of 1880 , in which it is spelled battik . It is attested in the Indonesian Archipelago during the Dutch colonial period in various forms : mbatek , mbatik , batek and batik .

= = History = =

Wax resist dyeing of fabric is an ancient art form . It already existed in Egypt in the 4th century BC , where it was used to wrap mummies ; linen was soaked in wax , and scratched using a stylus . In Asia , the technique was practised in China during the Tang Dynasty (618 @-@ 907 AD) , and in India and Japan during the Nara Period (645 @-@ 794 AD) . In Africa it was originally practised by the Yoruba tribe in Nigeria , Soninke and Wolof in Senegal . These African version however , uses cassava starch or rice paste , or mud as a resist instead of beeswax .

The art of batik is most highly developed in the island of Java in Indonesia . In Java , all the materials for the process are readily available ? cotton and beeswax and plants from which different vegetable dyes are made . Indonesian batik predates written records : G. P. Rouffaer argues that the technique might have been introduced during the 6th or 7th century from India or Sri Lanka . On the other hand , the Dutch archaeologist J.L.A. Brandes and the Indonesian archaeologist F.A. Sutjipto believe Indonesian batik is a native tradition , since another regions in Indonesia such as Toraja , Flores , Halmahera , and Papua , which were not directly influenced by Hinduism , have an age @-@ old tradition of batik making .

Rouffaer reported that the gringsing pattern was already known by the 12th century in Kediri , East Java . He concluded that this delicate pattern could be created only by using the canting , an etching tool that holds a small reservoir of hot wax , and proposed that the canting was invented in Java around that time . The carving details of clothes worn by East Javanese Prajnaparamita statues from around the 13th century show intricate floral patterns within rounded margins , similar to today 's traditional Javanese jlamprang or ceplok batik motif . The motif is thought to represent the lotus , a sacred flower in Hindu @-@ Buddhist beliefs . This evidence suggests that intricate batik fabric patterns applied with the canting existed in 13th @-@ century Java or even earlier .

In Europe , the technique was described for the first time in the History of Java , published in London in 1817 by Stamford Raffles , who had been a British governor for the island . In 1873 the Dutch merchant Van Rijckevorsel gave the pieces he collected during a trip to Indonesia to the ethnographic museum in Rotterdam . Today the Tropenmuseum houses the biggest collection of Indonesian batik in the Netherlands . The Dutch and Chinese colonists were active in developing

batik , particularly coastal batik , in the late colonial era . They introduced new patterns as well as the use of the cap (copper block stamps) to mass @-@ produce batiks . Displayed at the Exposition Universelle at Paris in 1900 , the Indonesian batik impressed the public and artists .

In the 1920s , Javanese batik makers migrating to Malaya (now Malaysia) introduced the use of wax and copper blocks to its east coast .

In Subsaharan Africa , Javanese batik was introduced in the 19th century by Dutch and English traders . The local people there adapted the Javanese batik , making larger motifs with thicker lines and more colours . In the 1970s , batik was introduced to Australia , where aboriginal artists at Erna Bella have developed it as their own craft .

= = Technique = =

Firstly , a cloth is washed , soaked and beaten with a large mallet . Patterns are drawn with pencil and later redrawn using hot wax , usually made from a mixture of paraffin or bees wax , sometimes mixed with plant resins , which functions as a dye @-@ resist . The wax can be applied with a variety of tools . A pen @-@ like instrument called a canting (IPA : [tʔantiʔ] , sometimes spelled with old Dutch orthography tjanting) is the most common . A tjanting is made from a small copper reservoir with a spout on a wooden handle . The reservoir holds the resist which flows through the spout , creating dots and lines as it moves . For larger patterns , a stiff brush may be used . Alternatively , a copper block stamp called a cap (IPA : [tʔap] ; old spelling tjap) is used to cover large areas more efficiently .

After the cloth is dry , the resist is removed by boiling or scraping the cloth . The areas treated with resist keep their original colour ; when the resist is removed the contrast between the dyed and undyed areas forms the pattern . This process is repeated as many times as the number of colours desired .

The most traditional type of batik , called batik tulis (written batik) , is drawn using only the canting . The cloth need to be drawn on both sides and dipped in a dye bath three to four times . The whole process may take up to a year ; it yields considerably finer patterns than stamped batik .

= = Culture = =

= = = Indonesia = = =

Many Indonesian batik patterns are symbolic . Infants are carried in batik slings decorated with symbols designed to bring the child luck , and certain batik designs are reserved for brides and bridegrooms , as well as their families . Some designs are reserved for royalties , and even banned to be worn by commoners . Consequently , a person 's rank could be determined by the pattern of the batik he or she wore . Further study to the geometry of symbolism in Indonesian batik showed the applicability of fractal geometry in traditional designs .

Batik garments play a central role in certain Javanese rituals , such as the ceremonial casting of royal batik into a volcano . In the Javanese naroni mitoni ceremony , the mother @-@ to @-@ be is wrapped in seven layers of batik , wishing her good things . Batik is also prominent in the tedak siten ceremony when a child touches the earth for the first time .

In October 2009 , UNESCO designated Indonesian batik as a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity . As part of the acknowledgment , UNESCO insisted that Indonesia preserve its heritage .

= = = Popularity = = =

The popularity of batik in Indonesia has varied . Historically , it was essential for ceremonial costumes and it was worn as part of a kebaya dress , commonly worn every day . The use of batik was already recorded in the 12th century , and the textile has become a strong source of identity for

Indonesians crossing religious , racial and cultural boundaries .

The batik industry of Java flourished from the late 1800s to early 1900s , but declined during the Japanese occupation of Indonesia . It further declined after the Indonesian independence , as people chose western clothes , decimating the batik industry . However , batik has somewhat revived at the turn of the 21st century , through the efforts of Indonesian fashion designers to innovate batik by incorporating new colours , fabrics , and patterns . Batik has become a fashion item for many Indonesians , and may be seen on shirts , dresses , or scarves for casual wear ; it is a preferred replacement for jacket @-@ and @-@ tie at certain receptions . Traditional batik sarongs are still used in many occasions .

After the UNESCO recognition for Indonesian batik on 2 October 2009 , the Indonesian administration asked Indonesians to wear batik on Fridays , and wearing batik every Friday has been encouraged in government offices and private companies ever since . 2 October is also celebrated as National Batik Day in Indonesia . Batik had helped improve the small business local economy , batik sales in Indonesia had reached Rp 3 @.@ 9 trillion (US \$ 436 @.@ 8 million) in 2010 , an increase from Rp 2 @.@ 5 trillion in 2006 . The value of batik exports , meanwhile , increased from \$ 14 @.@ 3 million in 2006 to \$ 22 @.@ 3 million in 2010 .

Batik is also popular in the neighbouring countries of Singapore and Malaysia . It is produced in Malaysia with similar , but not identical , methods to those used in Indonesia . Prior to UNESCO 's recognition and following the 2009 Pendet controversy , Indonesia and Malaysia disputed the ownership of batik culture . However , Dr Fiona Kerlogue of the Horniman museum argued that the Malaysian printed wax textiles , made for about a century , were quite a different tradition from the " very fine " traditional Indonesian batiks produced for many centuries .

Batik is featured in the national airline uniforms of the three countries , represented by batik prints worn by flight attendants of Singapore Airlines , Garuda Indonesia and Malaysian Airlines . The female uniform of Garuda Indonesia flight attendants is a modern interpretation of the Kartini style kebaya with parang gondosuli motifs .

== Terminology ==

Batik is traditionally sold in 2 @.@ 25 @-@ metre lengths used for kain panjang or sarong . It is worn by wrapping it around the hip , or made into a hat known as blangkon . The cloth can be filled continuously with a single pattern or divided into several sections .

Certain patterns are only used in certain sections of the cloth . For example , a row of isosceles triangles , forming the pasung motif , as well as diagonal floral motifs called dhlorong , are commonly used for the head . However , pasung and dhlorong are occasionally found in the body . Other motifs such as buketan (flower bouquet) and birds are commonly used in either the head or the body .

The head is a rectangular section of the cloth which is worn at the front . The head section can be at the middle of the cloth , or placed at one or both ends . The papan inside of the head can be used to determine whether the cloth is kain panjang or sarong .

The body is the main part of the cloth , and is filled with a wide variety of patterns . The body can be divided into two alternating patterns and colours called pagi @-@ sore (' dawn @-@ dusk ') . Brighter pattern are shown during the day , while darker pattern are shown in the evening . The alternating colours give the impression of two batik sets .

Margins are often plain , but floral and lace @-@ like patterns , as well as wavy lines described as a dragon , are common in the area beside seret .

== Types ==

As each region has its own traditional pattern , batiks are commonly distinguished by the region they originated in , such as batik Solo , batik Pekalongan , and batik Madura . Batiks from Java can be distinguished by their general pattern and colours into batik pedalaman (inland batik) or batik pesisir (coastal batik) . Batiks which do not fall neatly into one of these two categories are only

referred to by their region . A mapping of batik designs from all places in Indonesia depicts the similarities and reflects cultural assimilation within batik designs .

===== Javanese Batik =====

===== Inland Batik =====

Inland batik or batik kraton (Javanese court batik) is the oldest form of batik tradition known in Java . Inland batik has earthy colour such as black , indigo , brown , and sogan (brown @-@ yellow colour made from the tree *Peltophorum pterocarpum*) , sometimes against a white background , with symbolic patterns that are mostly free from outside influence . Certain patterns are reserved for royalty , while other are worn on specific occasions . At a Javanese wedding for example , the bride wears specific patterns at each stage of the ceremony . Noted inland batiks are produced in Solo and Jogjakarta , cities traditionally regarded as the centre of Javanese culture . Batik Solo typically has sogan background and is preserved by the Susuhunan and Mangkunegaran Court . Batik Jogja typically has white background and is preserved by the Yogyakarta Sultanate and Pakualaman Court .

===== Coastal Batik =====

Coastal batik is produced in several areas of northern Java and Madura . In contrast to inland batik , coastal batiks have vibrant colours and patterns inspired by a wide range of cultures as a consequence of maritime trading . Recurring motifs include European flower bouquets , Chinese phoenix , and Persian peacocks . Noted coastal batiks are produced in Pekalongan , Cirebon , Lasem , Tuban , and Madura . Pekalongan has the most active batik industry .

A notable sub @-@ type of coastal batik called Jawa Hokokai is not attributed to a particular region . During the Japanese occupation of Indonesia in early 1940 , the batik industry greatly declined due to material shortages . The workshops funded by the Japanese however were able to produce extremely fine batiks called Jawa Hokokai . Common motifs of Hokokai includes Japanese cherry blossoms , butterflies , and chrysanthemums .

Another coastal batik called tiga negeri (batik of three lands) is attributed to three regions : Lasem , Pekalongan , and Solo , where the batik would be dipped in red , blue , and sogan dyes respectively . As of 1980 , batik tiga negeri was only produced in one city .

===== Sundanese Batik =====

Sundanese or Priangan Batik is the term for batik from the Priangan region of West Java and Banten . Although Priangan batiks can use a wide range of colours , a preference for indigo is seen in some of its variants . Natural indigo dye made from *Indigofera* is among the oldest known dyes in Java , and its local name tarum has lent its name to the Citarum river and the Tarumanagara kingdom , which suggests that ancient West Java was once a major producer of natural indigo . Noted Priangan batik is produced in Ciamis , Garut , and Tasikmalaya . Other traditions include Batik Kuningan influenced by batik Cirebon , batik Banten that developed quite independently , and an older tradition of batik Baduy .

Batik Banten employs bright pastel colours and represents a revival of a lost art from the Sultanate of Banten , rediscovered through archaeological work during 2002 ? 2004 . Twelve motifs from locations such as Surosowan and several other places have been identified .

Batik Baduy only employs indigo colour in shades ranged from bluish black to deep blue . It is traditionally worn as iket , a type of Sundanese headress similar to Balinese udeng , by Outer Baduy people of Lebak Regency , Banten .

===== Sumatran Batik =====

Trade relations between the Melayu Kingdom in Jambi and Javanese coastal cities have thrived since the 13th century . Therefore , coastal batik from northern Java probably influenced Jambi . In 1875 , Haji Mahibat from Central Java revived the declining batik industry in Jambi . The village of Mudung Laut in Pelayangan district is known for producing batik Jambi . Batik Jambi , as well as Javanese batik , influenced the Malaysian batik .

The Minangkabau people also produce batik called batiak tanah liak (clay batik) , which use clay as dye for the fabric . The fabric is immersed in clay for more than 1 day and later designed with motifs of animal and flora . The Batik from Bengkulu , a city on west coast of Sumatra , is called Batik Besurek , which literary means " batik with letters " as they draw inspiration from Arabic calligraphy .

= = = = Balinese Batik = = = =

Batik making in the island of Bali is relatively new , but a fast @-@ growing industry . Many patterns are inspired by local designs , which are favoured by the local Balinese and domestic tourists . Objects from nature such as frangipani and hibiscus flowers , birds or fishes , and daily activities such as Balinese dancer and ngaben processions or religious and mythological creatures such as barong , kala and winged lion are common . Modern batik artists express themselves freely in a wide range of subjects .

Contemporary batik is not limited to traditional or ritual wearing in Bali . Some designers promote batik Bali as elegant fabric that can be used to make casual or formal cloth . Using high class batik , like hand made batik tulis , can show social status .

= = = Malaysia = = =

Batik was mentioned in the 17th century Malay Annals . The legend goes when Laksamana Hang Nadim was ordered by Malacca King , Sultan Mahmud , to sail to India to buy 140 pieces of serasah cloth (batik) with 40 types of flowers depicted on each . Unable to find any that fulfilled the requirements explained to him , he made up his own . On his return unfortunately his ship sank and he only managed to bring four pieces , earning displeasure from the Sultan .

The method of Malaysian batik making is different from those of Indonesian Javanese batik , the pattern being larger and simpler with only occasional use of the canting to create intricate patterns . It relies heavily on brush painting to apply colours to fabrics . The colours also tend to be lighter and more vibrant than deep coloured Javanese batik . The most popular motifs are leaves and flowers . Malaysian batik often displays plants and flowers to avoid the interpretation of human and animal images as idolatry , in accordance with local Islamic doctrine . However , the butterfly theme is a common exception .

= = = India = = =

Indians are known to use resist method of printing designs on cotton fabrics , which can be traced back 2000 years . Initially , wax and even rice starch were used for printing on fabrics . Until recently batik was made only for dresses and tailored garments , but modern batik is applied in numerous items , such as murals , wall hangings , paintings , household linen , and scarves , with livelier and brighter patterns . Contemporary batik making in India is also done by the Deaf women of Delhi , these women are fluent in Indian Sign Language and also work in other vocational programs .

= = = Sri Lanka = = =

Over the past century , batik making in Sri Lanka has become firmly established . The Sri Lankan batik industry is a small scale industry which can employ individual design talent and mainly deals with foreign customers for profit . It is now the most visible of the island 's crafts with galleries and

factories , large and small , having sprung up in many tourist areas . Rows of small stalls selling batiks can be found all along Hikkaduwa 's Galle Road strip . Mahawewa , on the other hand , is famous for its batik factories .

= = = China = = =

Batik is done by the ethnic people in the South @-@ West of China . The Miao , Bouyei and Gejia people use a dye resist method for their traditional costumes . The traditional costumes are made up of decorative fabrics , which they achieve by pattern weaving and wax resist . Almost all the Miao decorate hemp and cotton by applying hot wax then dipping the cloth in an indigo dye . The cloth is then used for skirts , panels on jackets , aprons and baby carriers . Like the Javanese , their traditional patterns also contain symbolism , the patterns include the dragon , phoenix , and flowers .

= = = Africa = = =

In Africa , where batik was originally imported by Dutch merchants from Indonesia (then the Netherlands East Indies) , paste made from starch or mud is used as a resist instead of wax . The most developed resist @-@ dyeing skills are to be found in Nigeria where the Yoruba make adire cloths . Two methods of resist are used adire eleso which involves tied and stitched and adire eleko that uses starch paste . The paste is most often made from cassava starch , rice , and other ingredients boiled together to produce a smooth thick paste . The Yoruba of West Africa use cassava paste as a resist while the Soninke and Wolof people in Senegal uses rice paste . The Bamana people of Mali use mud as a resist .

= = Gallery = =

= = = Indonesian batik = = =

= = = Batik processing = = =

= = = People wearing batik = = =