

# Adire Style Wax Batik

Number of participants: unlimited

Duration: 2 days

Age Restrictions: none, younger youth will need help cutting

## Brief Description:

Adire textile is the indigo dyed cloth made in south western Nigeria. In the past they used a cassava paste, but today they use melted candle wax. The dye-resistant starch was either painted freehand or stenciled onto the fabric. When freehand painting, the artist usually paints a grid of squares or rectangles onto the fabric first. Then she fills these squares with geometric and representational motifs.

After the white cloth is covered in various patterns and designs, it is dyed in an indigo dye bath. Originally, indigo was a dye derived from plant leaves, but nowadays most people use synthetic dyes. The cloth then gets put into a vat of boiling water which melts off all the wax, revealing the white design. Adire cloth is used for clothing as well as for export to be made into decorative textiles (throw pillows, tablecloths, etc).

Space Requirements: Craft Table covered for paint

## Supplies:

- Wax Crayons—light colours only
- Dark Blue (Indigo) Tempra paint
- Oil pastels
- \* White cardstock
- Paint brush
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Dark construction paper

## Activity Instructions:

1. Using the white card stock and crayon, press hard to make a 4x6 grid .
2. Fill in each square with a pattern: checkers, bubbles, swirls, flowers, be creative! But press hard!
3. Dilute some dark tempra paint with some water. Paint over the entire paper, let dry
4. On the dark construction paper draw a stylized African animal, colour it in with oil pastels
5. Cut out the animal and glue it onto your dried “adire” paper

