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The Art of Resist Dyeing

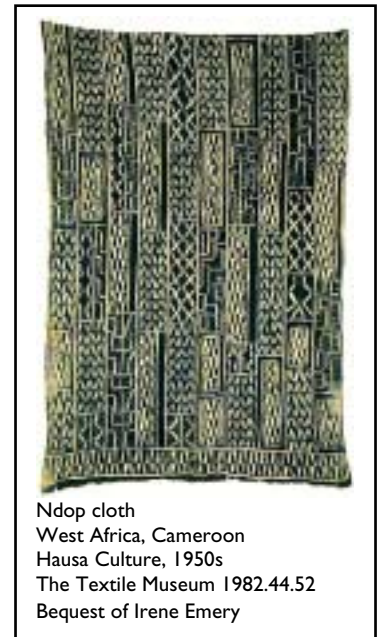
July 5, 2003 – January 5, 2004

June 5, 2003, Washington, DC — From July 5, 2003 through January 5, 2004 The Textile Museum will present the exhibition *The Art of Resist Dyeing*, showcasing approximately 25 objects that demonstrate the various methods of resist dyeing that can be used to decorate textiles. Representing traditions from a variety of cultures, the textiles show the wide range of results that can be achieved through resist dyeing. The objects in the exhibition span the globe and are drawn exclusively from The Textile Museum's collections.

Resist dyeing is a method of textile patterning used around the world, encompassing a variety of processes, tools, materials, and subsequent results. With this technique, areas of cloth or individual yarns are protected from dye penetration using wax, paste, thread, or another substance. The areas where dye is prevented from being absorbed are said to be 'reserved'. By repeating the process, textile artists can create complex and beautiful patterns with numerous colors, although some of the most striking examples have only two colors – the dyed color and the original color of the reserved areas of cloth or yarns.

A familiar form of resist dyeing is tie dyeing, where areas of a woven cloth are bound, leaving them untouched by the dye. Another process involves tightly wrapping groups of individual yarns. After dyeing, the yarns are carefully set up on a loom, leaving the pattern to emerge during weaving. This technique is called *ikat* from the Malay word *mengikat* meaning 'to tie' or 'to bind'.

The Art of Resist Dyeing includes examples of resist-dyed textiles from around the world, including objects from Guatemala, Cambodia, Peru, and Uzbekistan.



Founded in 1925 by George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum is an international center for the exhibition, study, collection and preservation of the textile arts.

The Museum explores the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over. Special attention is given to textiles of the traditional societies of the Near East, Asia, Africa and the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Museum also presents exhibitions of historical and contemporary quilts, and fiber art.

With a collection of over 17,000 textiles and carpets and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally. For further information, call (202) 667-0441.

For more information or photographs, please contact Julia Neubauer, Public Information Assistant, The Textile Museum, (202) 667-0441, ext. 17. The Textile Museum is a private, non-profit museum open Monday through Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$5.00.
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