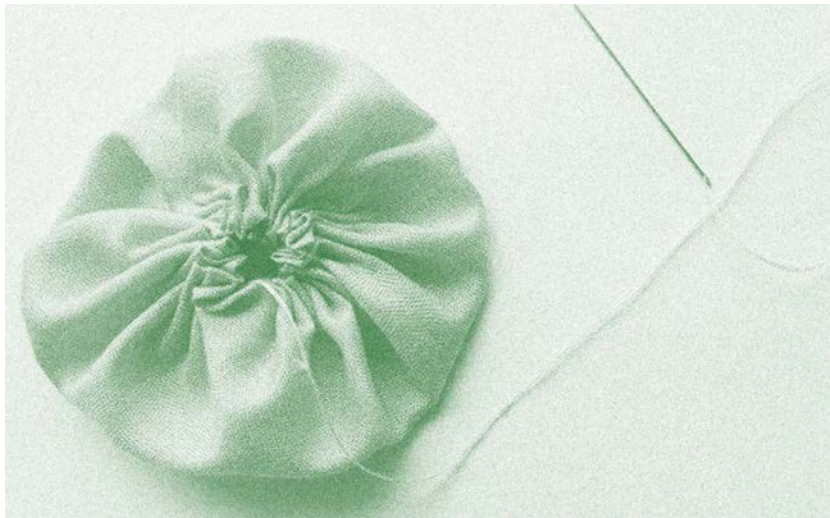


a common thread



Bundle Dyeing Workshop  
A Common Thread

RCA Kensington Campus  
8th February 2023



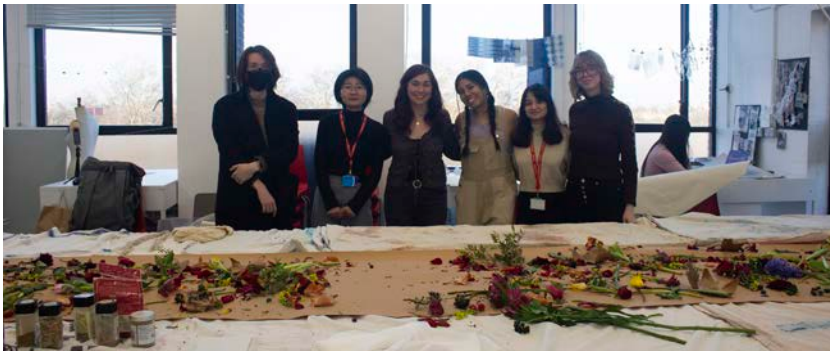
# *ACT*

When you stitch around the edge of a circle then pull on the thread the borderline is gathered together and brought to the centre.

Envision the links between people and environment as threads which can gather our social fabric. By conducting workshops in nature we can pull on these threads, gather people together and centre matristic values and women's skills previously left on the periphery.

Our ambition is to re-build connections between nature and society by celebrating and sharing the work of marginalised groups, who use techniques which are ecological, such as bundle dyeing.

The ACT team: X, Sisi, Joanne, Crysta, Rachita and Rosie.



ACT's objective is to break the stigma around *women's work* and enable heritage skill sharing within inclusive environments.

Bundle dyeing involves taking natural dyes, such as onion skins, turmeric and flowers, and wrapping them up in the fabric you want to dye, forming a bundle. The bundle is then steamed to activate the dye.

In this workshop we used rectangular pieces of natural fabric, such as linen and cotton, soaked in mordant which were then covered in natural dyes and rolled up from one end to the other. This was then rolled in a spiral to look like a snail shell. String was tied around each bundle to keep everything in place.





Each layout was unique and beautiful creating a singular pattern that can never be repeated.



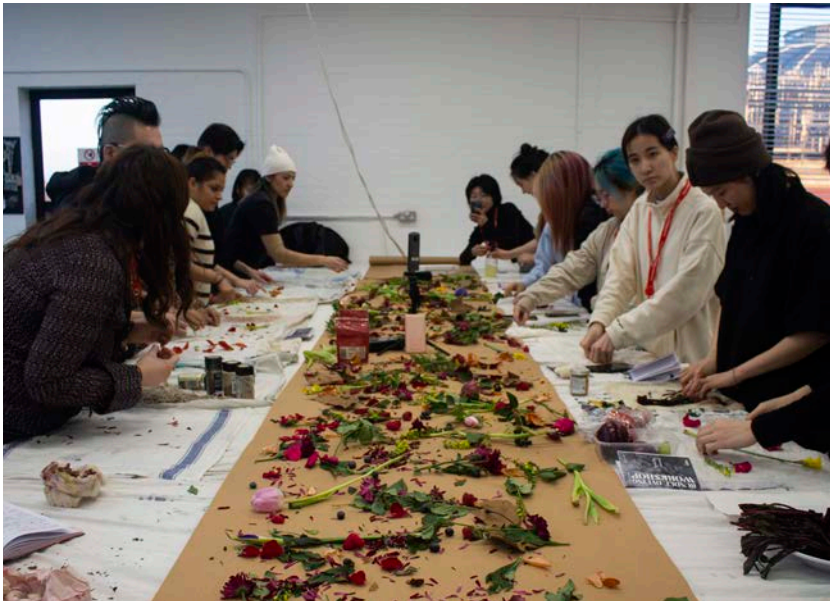


The workshop began with members sharing their memories of women's work. This encompassed cooking, gardening and weaving amongst other skills. The yarn was passed to next person who spoke having resonated with what had just been said. This created a network of string which webbed its way around the room. This created tangible threads which connected the people in the room physically as well as metaphorically.

At the end of the workshop the bundles were collected ready for steaming.



Almost everything was used which helped us keep the workshop as low waste as possible.

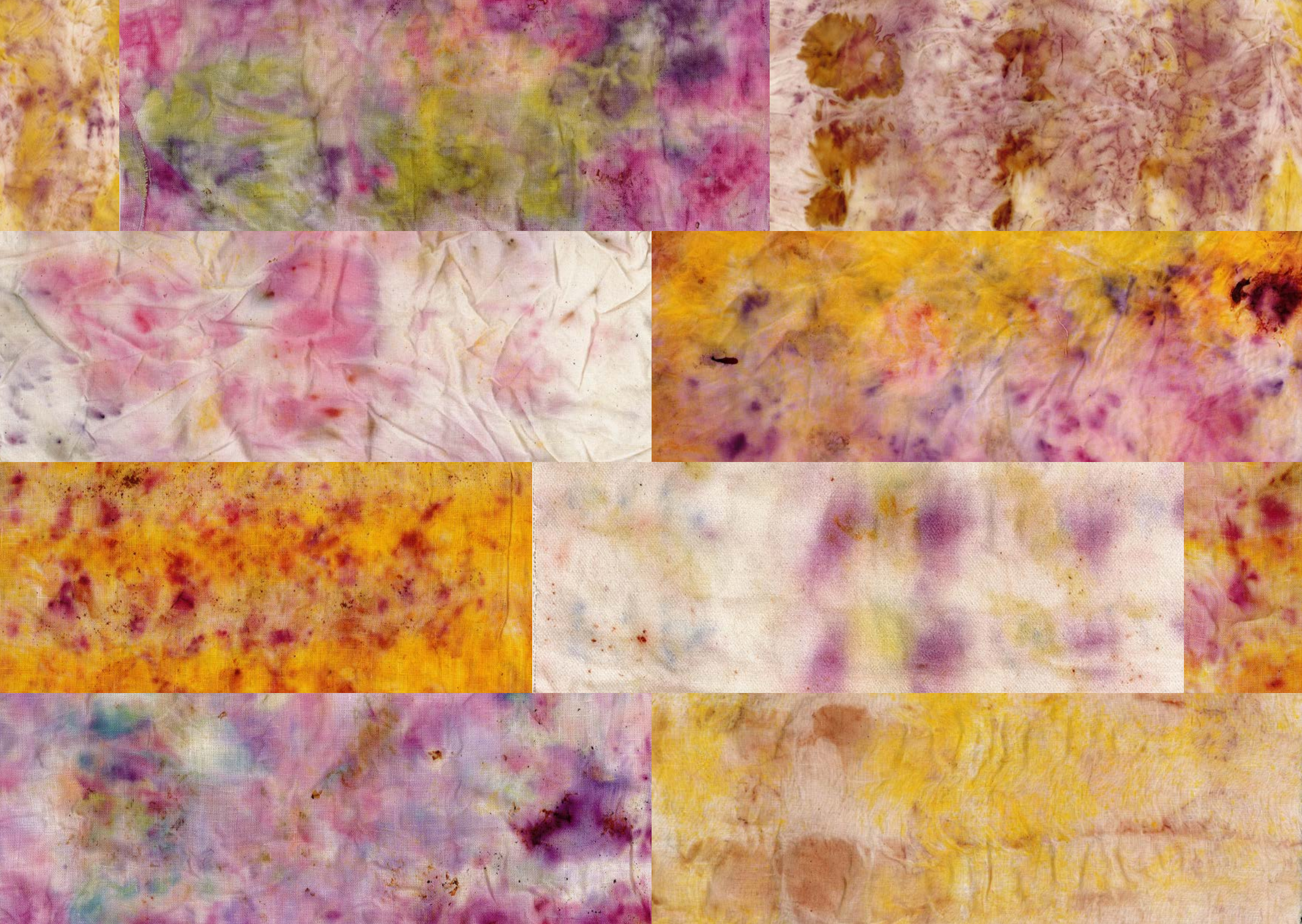


And here are the results...

The dyed fabrics displayed in Hyde Park.







## SHARE A MEMORY

Draw an object or symbol that represents heritage crafts and traditional homemaking skills in your family and/or community.

Small  
Cumin Spices always  
takes me back  
to my grand mother's  
kitchen.  
summer days when  
kitchen & courtyard  
would be full of  
spices & pickles

being marinated.

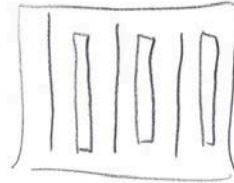
You I wouldn't

want to go anywhere  
but keep visiting  
her storage.

"That's where the  
treasure is" I would  
always say to  
myself. I was 4-5 yrs  
old.

Thank you for reminding me  
again of those lovely memories

## BUNDLE DYE RECIPE

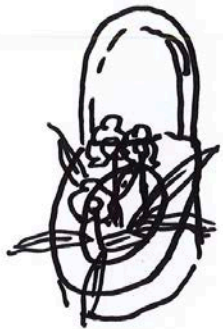


## REFLECTIONS

Wrapping and tying  
the cloth up is  
very similar to  
the making of the  
Russian dish I  
talked about which  
is called "circle."  
Cooking and bundle  
dyeing are both  
fun and relaxing  
activities.

## SHARE A MEMORY

Draw an object or symbol that represents heritage crafts and traditional homemaking skills in your family and/or community.



Flowers that my grandmother  
planted in a broken toilet.

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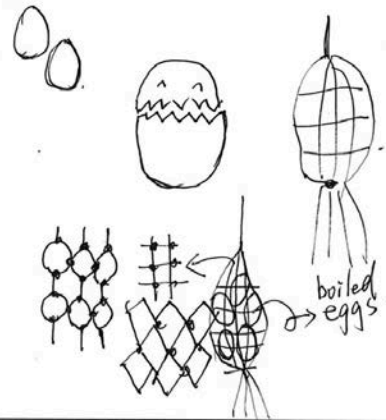
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## SHARE A MEMORY

Draw an object or symbol that represents heritage crafts and traditional homemaking skills in your family and/or community.

Dragon Boat Festival



Weave the egg container with  
mom before dragon boat Festival  
→ Different colors.

then, use this container  
to collect eggs from neighbors

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*A Common Thread* (ACT) is a group facilitating workshops which tie together the threads which connect people and nature.

There is an intersection between caring for the environment and caring for people, especially those who have been marginalised.

ACT centres skills left on the periphery of society with a focus on textiles and *women's* work.



**Royal College of Art**

