

Artist Statement

Indigo is a color that can be viewed on the visible color spectrum between a lighter blue and violet.

Indigo is also the title of a recent painting of mine. While working on this painting, I learned about the art and culture developed historically from the plant *indigofera tinctoria*. In Japan many beautiful kimonos were dyed with indigo, called *ai-iro* in Japanese, since the sixth century. The Persians also used variations of the plant to make a brighter indigo in their clothing and decorative arts. In the Western world more recently, indigo was used by the clothing industry to create denim and the "denim culture" began with it's emphasis on blue jeans and free expression in the arts and entertainment as well as the technology sector.

I think of this painting as a devotional work, by filling in the grid of half inch squares with many layers of the dark pigment in oil, I am paying tribute to the beauty of the art and craft making that has taken place before with natural dyes from the vegetation and mineral deposits in the earth, a process that seems to be taking root once again, slowly and consciously, one square at a time.

Gloria Matuszewski

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