

BLOCK-PRINTED TEXTILES AT STODMARSH STUDIO

Working in Stodmarsh Studio, East Kent, Matthew Meadows uses a direct hand block-printing method which has evolved on the Asian subcontinent over many centuries. Together with resist and discharge processes, hand block textile printing activity continues to thrive there despite competition from the screen, rotary and other modern textile printing which dominate the global textile industry.

On top of a mobile trolley, a tray carries a pad coated with print paste. This accompanies the printer working their way down the print table, who will charge the hand carved wooden block with paste and register and impress it onto the cloth, using a mallet. Blocks are carved in Japanese Shina plywood, then mounted onto thicker birch ply. Most of my designs are printed on linen using two blocks, their impressions overlapping to produce a third colour.

Since being introduced from the Indian subcontinent in the 18th century, Europe has developed its own tradition of block printed textiles. With the notable exception of William Morris, this was mostly subsumed by automated industrial processes during the 19th century. However the 20th century saw a craft revival of textile block-printing in the UK, in particular Barron and Larcher, Susan Bosence, and Enid Marx.

In addition to block-printing fabric, Matthew designs and screen-prints wallpaper and produces single-sheet prints. You can see these on Instagram at @brixtonprintshed, @stodmarsh_studio and @matthewmeadowslifeclass.

Fabric is printed to commission, with a lead time of 4-5 weeks, priced at £95 per metre.

For further information please contact me at m@matthewmeadows.net / 07713637287, or the Bloomsbury Design curator Christiane Hoopen, on 07775537603 or email: christianetenhoopen@gmail.com

