

Welcome



Traditional Yoruba Batik Workshop

G25090402

with Gasali Adeyemo

September 28-October 4, 2025

My name is Gasali Adeyemo. I am the third born of five from a small rural village, Ofat-
edo, located in Osun State Nigeria. I use the traditional Yoruba methods of Batik, Adire
Eleko and Tie-dye in my art that the people of my tribe have been using for a very long
time. Each of the designs I use in my fiber art were passed down through the genera-
tions, they each have specific meanings.

The indigo that I use to dye the fabric is also very important in my culture. Indigo has
been used as a dye in Africa for a very long time. The Yoruba name for indigo is Elu.
Since the olden days indigo has been used for medicine as well as a dye; it cures an
upset stomach. Indigo is also used to ward off viruses, houses are painted with indigo
to prevent the sickness from entering.

From a young age I was interested in art. My mother was the most important teacher
in my life, she gave me a love of fiber art. From her I learned adire eleko which is the
oldest resist technique in my culture. I began by just watching her and learning the
designs and what they represented. She then began letting me prepare the cassava
paste and finally I began to learn the technique. She also taught me tie-dye. Later,
when I was older I attended the Nike Center for Arts and Culture, there I learned the
process of batik and tie-dye.

I enjoy traveling the world conducting workshops and exhibitions. My recent work-
shops include Aya Fiber Studio, Snow Farm, The New England Craft Program and
John Campbell Folk School. In the future, I plan to continue to travel worldwide, shar-
ing the arts and culture of the Yoruba people of Nigeria.