

a o t e x t i l e s  
w i t h  
**GAINSBOROUGH**

## **GAINSBOROUGH PARTNERS WITH AO TEXTILES TO OFFER A NATURAL PLANT-BASED DYEING SERVICE**

Gainsborough and AO Textiles collaborate to offer sustainable bespoke jacquard woven textiles dyed with natural plant-based colour, including weld, chestnut, madder and logwood. The partnership will be launched at the Sustainable Angle Future Fabrics Expo in London on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023, London. Gainsborough and AO Textiles collaborate to offer a unique service combining a natural dye colour consultancy with bespoke jacquard woven textile production.

Together they have developed techniques that revive heritage alongside modern production methods; in particular, the use of natural plant-based colours for contemporary textile production.

All production, from dyeing the yarn to weaving the fabric, is done in-house. The partnership has established that colour sourced from sustainable botanicals, including madder, weld and chestnut, can play a part in circular 21<sup>st</sup> century textile production, making an environmentally conscious move away from the synthetic petroleum-based colours common in textile manufacture today. The fabrics are created using naturally derived colour that are scalable, repeatable, and of the quality demanded by industry.

The plants include :

WELD - creates bright yellows as seen in our palette colour but can also be used to create light and dark green.

CHESTNUT - Chestnut produces a range of soft brown colours. The chestnut extract they source is from Occitanie and is produced sustainably by KINGTREE, in the Haut-Languedoc Regional Natural Park. The dye is obtained from natural regrowth of chestnut wood (*Castanea sativa* Mill). Vegetable tannins (ellagic tannins) are extracted using wood water and concentration, therefore in a closed loop without water consumption or effluents. A good example of co-recovery since the extracted wood is then used to manufacture building biomaterials.

MADDER - is sourced from the roots of the madder plant and creates anything from a dark rusty red to subtle pale pinks.

LOGWOOD - The heartwood of *Haematoxylum campechianum*. Logwood can be used to create a variety of colours from deep, rich, red-purples to orchid blues.

The colours include :



Campeche



Luteola



Rubea



Pale Rubea



Castaneda

The partnership will be launched at the Sustainable Angle Future Fabrics Expo in London from 26th to 28th June 2023.

### **About Sustainability**

All aspects of textile production; from the replacement of synthetic colour with natural dyes to sustainably sourced silk yarn, obtained through an environmentally friendly process that does not involve the use of pesticides and plays a key role in supporting rural communities. Certified by Oeko-tex Standard 100 certification.

The AO textiles dyeing process received the stamp of approval from Greenpeace International's Detox Fashion Campaign in 2013. Using 100% sustainably sourced Oeko-tex Standard 100, Class I-IV natural dyes, which are compliant with the requirements of the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List V2.0. Additionally, mordants and dyes are GOTS certified.

The exhaustion process employed in the dye house reduces wastewater and dye to negligible levels. Excess heat from steam pipes is channeled via a heat exchanger into the drying cupboard to dry yarn using no additional energy. Production has been reduced to almost zero waste as all fabric is made to order. Any yarn that is not woven is donated to recycling charities and to students. Gainsborough fabrics are designed with longevity in mind and often exceed their expected life span of 25 years.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Gainsborough

Founded in 1903, Gainsborough Silk embodies over 100 years of British craftsmanship and creativity. Recognised internationally for our exquisite fabrics, fine damasks, brocades and brocatelles, and awarded the Royal Warrant in 1980, our fabrics grace the interiors of the most discerning clients the world over. Gainsborough is rare in the British textile industry for its ability to manage the entire production of fabric manufacture in-house, from processing and hand-dyeing the yarn to weaving the finished fabric. This complete control allows Gainsborough to stay true to our founder's vision to create exceptional fabrics for the contemporary market.

### About AO Textiles

AO textiles is a project-based research & design consultancy founded by Karen Spurgin, Penny Walsh and Emma D'Arcey. With over 50 years combined experience as colourists and surface designers, AO textiles specialises in developing natural dyes for textiles in commercial production.

### PR & Marketing Enquiries

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