

Fiber Reactive Dying

Annie Feuerstein

As simple and fun as tie-dying is there is also a lot going on at the molecular level that makes this art form possible. The fiber-reactive dyes in most tie-dye kits are perfect to react and bind to the hydroxyl (-OH) functional groups in the cotton, which is made up of cellulose fibers. In art history, tie-dye hit its peak in the late 60' s and early 70' s and was popular with the younger generation. However it continues to be a practical art form, enjoyed by many to this very day. I chose to make a swirl pattern because this is one of my first times using tie-dye. I wish the final product had somewhat more dye in it but I am still pleased with the outcome of one of my first tie-dying experiences.

