

The Batik Textile

Krabi Province

Batik is an applied textile design, meaning a method of painting by process of wax (or any other substance with the same physical quality) resist to keep the original of color certain portions of a piece of cloth from the coloring matter in the painting process. The cloth can be colored in monochrome or multicolor up to the preference. There are many ways to perform the technique to result in different styles of patterns to better meet the need in terms of utility and aesthete.



nature




under the sea

The Origin of the Batik Textile

Batik fabric or Pate is an ancient art of which the solid evidence of its origin is yet to be found. However there is historical evidence that Egypt is the first nation that applied the painting technique on the fabric. Later more evidences were found in Persia, India, Japan. It is generally believed that batik is originated in the Royal Court of Indonesia and learned among the commoners and later the Javanese

batik was spread throughout Europe by the Dutch. Batik fabric was first introduced into Thailand at Su-Ngai-Kolok District, Narathiwat Province by Wae-Ma Wae-Aarree (Mr.), a Malay-Thai. The fabric was widespread to nearby provinces and regions; often displayed the nature under the sea.



Researchers believe that the primeval batik method was discovered in 4 regions; Far East, Middle East, Middle Asia, and India. They also believe that the primeval batik in each region was independently developed without outside influence either from trade or cultural exchange. Batik was brought into Indonesia at its peak. Initially, the fabric was restricted to noble ladies and later was recognized as indicator of the aristocrats. In 13th Century aristocrats, batik making was monopolized by the Sultan. Batik was the restricted art for Royal Court, made by female court servants. Later batik became more available and generally worn within households of the court officials, aristocrats, and other members in the society involved in batik making and in eventual have become the National costume of Indonesia. And in 17th Century, some merchants brought Indonesian batik to Holland and linen was imported.

Thai people recognized batik fabric by the name "Pate" derived from Indonesia through Malaysia, by the trade and religion influences. The production is centered in the 4 provinces in the South. In addition, batik making is also found in The North, by Hmong, hill tribe people. However the batik made in the two regions are very different in patterns. While flowers, leaves, a marine lives, and clusters of vine are often displayed in batik fabrics made in the South, those made by the Hmong in the North usually take geometrical theme. The Hmong people usually use the fabric made from Marihuana fiber which is assumed to be inherited from Southern China.

According to a research on the history of batik fabric, it can be concluded that the origin of batik is still unknown. The fabric is widely used in Indonesia, starting from the production within the Royal Court by the female court servants, and then was introduced to public. The batik making techniques has been constantly improved ever since and become universally popular. As hand-painting batik is considered first-class batik and very expensive, the new technology—silk screen was invented to imitate batik painting on the fabric but as widely accepted as the original one. In Thailand, unlike in others countries batik is usually regarded as handicraft or so-called "Batik Paint", drawn by hands. Thai batik has its own characteristics that make it stand out from batik art in other countries.

The Art and Intellectual of the Batik Textile


Batik is an art form with long history. At the early age, batik was made for actual use. When batik has acclaimed worldwide popularity, Batik making in each region has been characterized by the identity of the locality and considerably developed in style and technique.

In the present, batik making is not only focused for practicality and functionality. Many artists in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand made batik into painting art. Such art trend has also prevailed to Europe and America. Moreover, Batik is the trademark costume



of the South-East Asian countries namely; Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, including the Southern part of Thailand, along the border line between Thailand and Malaysia. Nowadays the popularity of batik in Thailand is widespread throughout the country as batik technique can be applied on silk and cotton.

In the old days, batik pattern was originally made from the cracks of cooled wax. Later, the technique was elevated into batik-paint by using canting to apply the wax on the outline. Then simply paint or apply the color to fill in the space of the outline that was drawn with care to make sure the outline is closed to efficiently resist the paint and prevent the colors from blending together during the processes. Unlike the original batik of which the patterns are resulted from the crack of the wax, the pattern would appear on the finished work as the result of the wax- anti-dyeing effect on the out line



The Importance of the Batik Textile

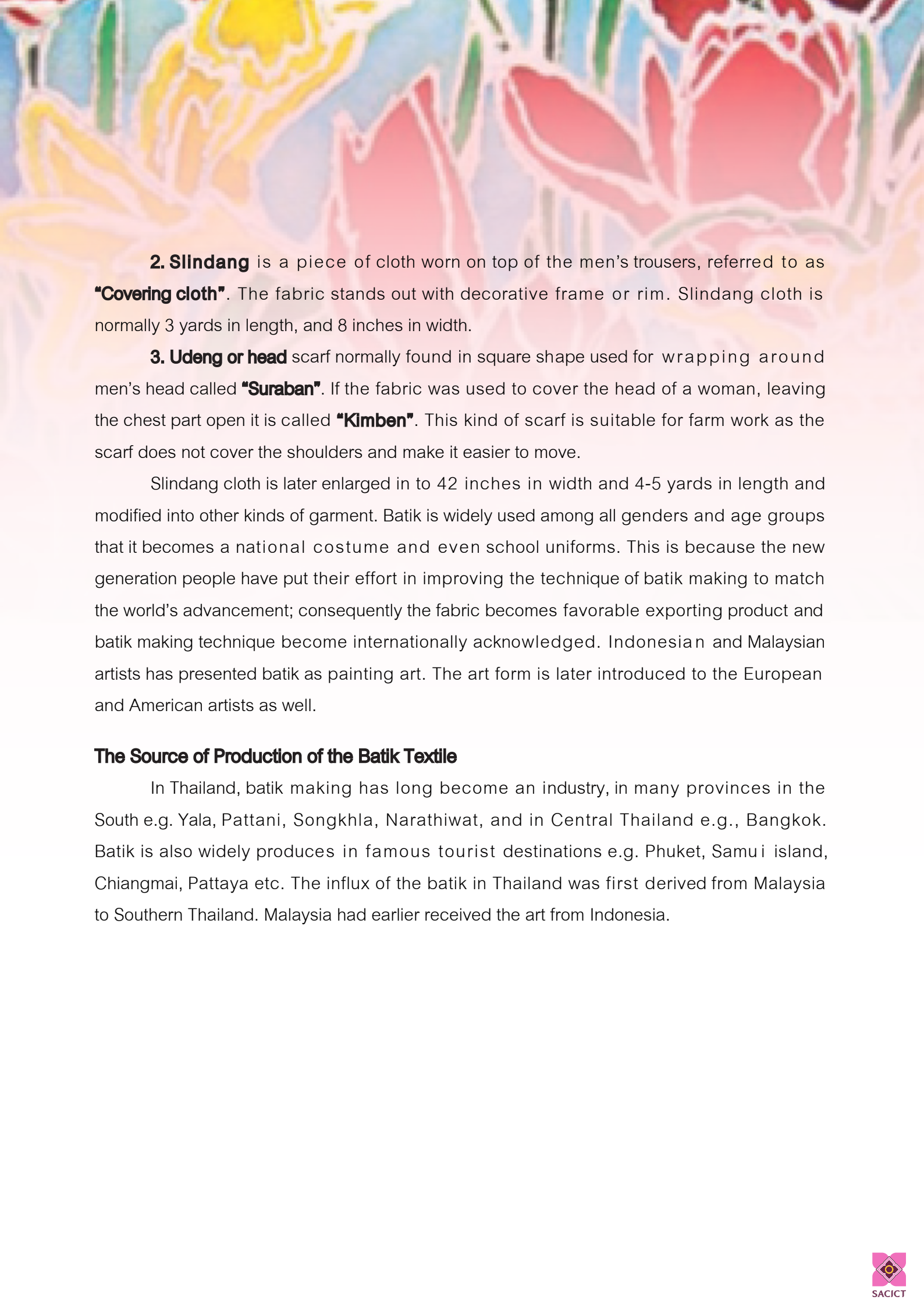
The significance of batik in term of local cultural is not found. This may be because of the difference in batik making method in different countries. There may be evidence confirming that batik sarong must be originated in Indonesia, at the early age batik was made within the royal court or among the aristocrats only. However, the idea was opposed that the batik should be local art that produced and worn by commoners in general. The batik is normally made by women in their leisure after finish the farming work.

During 12th century, people improved the making technique and color blending technique based on the traditional method. During 13th century, batik making was monopolized by the Sultan; the art was taken as the high-end art restricted for the royal court and produced by the female court officials only. Batik fabric in the age was referred as **"Kraton"**, normally made by hands (batik tulis). Once the fabric gained more popularity and became more widely used, the monopoly by the Sultan were put the end. The batik art was introduced to commoners in general.

The Functions of the Batik Textile

Batik is a fabric that has been passed on from one generation to another for over 2,000 years. The popularity of batik cloth, especially in Java Island was originally among women and children only. Later the fabric was adapted and used in making 3 kinds of garment for both male and female as follows:

- 1. Sarong** is the loincloth for wrapping around the body; the normal fabric is 42 inches in width and 2-3 yards in length. Sarong is equipped with a special particle called **"Pate"** referred to the part that must be worn at the hip-level, the section is marked by different pattern from other parts of same piece the fabric.




2. Slindang is a piece of cloth worn on top of the men's trousers, referred to as **"Covering cloth"**. The fabric stands out with decorative frame or rim. Slindang cloth is normally 3 yards in length, and 8 inches in width.

3. Udeng or head scarf normally found in square shape used for wrapping around men's head called **"Suraban"**. If the fabric was used to cover the head of a woman, leaving the chest part open it is called **"Kimben"**. This kind of scarf is suitable for farm work as the scarf does not cover the shoulders and make it easier to move.

Slindang cloth is later enlarged in to 42 inches in width and 4-5 yards in length and modified into other kinds of garment. Batik is widely used among all genders and age groups that it becomes a national costume and even school uniforms. This is because the new generation people have put their effort in improving the technique of batik making to match the world's advancement; consequently the fabric becomes favorable exporting product and batik making technique become internationally acknowledged. Indonesian and Malaysian artists has presented batik as painting art. The art form is later introduced to the European and American artists as well.

The Source of Production of the Batik Textile

In Thailand, batik making has long become an industry, in many provinces in the South e.g. Yala, Pattani, Songkhla, Narathiwat, and in Central Thailand e.g., Bangkok. Batik is also widely produces in famous tourist destinations e.g. Phuket, Samui island, Chiangmai, Pattaya etc. The influx of the batik in Thailand was first derived from Malaysia to Southern Thailand. Malaysia had earlier received the art from Indonesia.



Thai people known batik under the name of **“Paa-pan or Paa-Pate-pan”** (literally: wrapping cloth or wrapping Pate cloth” as the fabric is generally used for wrapping around the body. The term **“Sarong”** is also derived from Indonesian language meaning loincloth. Local people in the South called batik fabric **“Pate” or “Bate”**. The elders usually refer to imported batik as **Java cloth or Javor cloth**, meaning Javanese cloth, and name it as “Ta-mi-fa-ra” in Southern dialect.

Batik cloth and Andaman Sea has been closely tied for very long time. Its local batik is outstanding, colorful, and well depicts its image of the coastal land. Batik making is as a result becomes a popular souvenir that generates revenue for people along Andaman coast and all over the country.

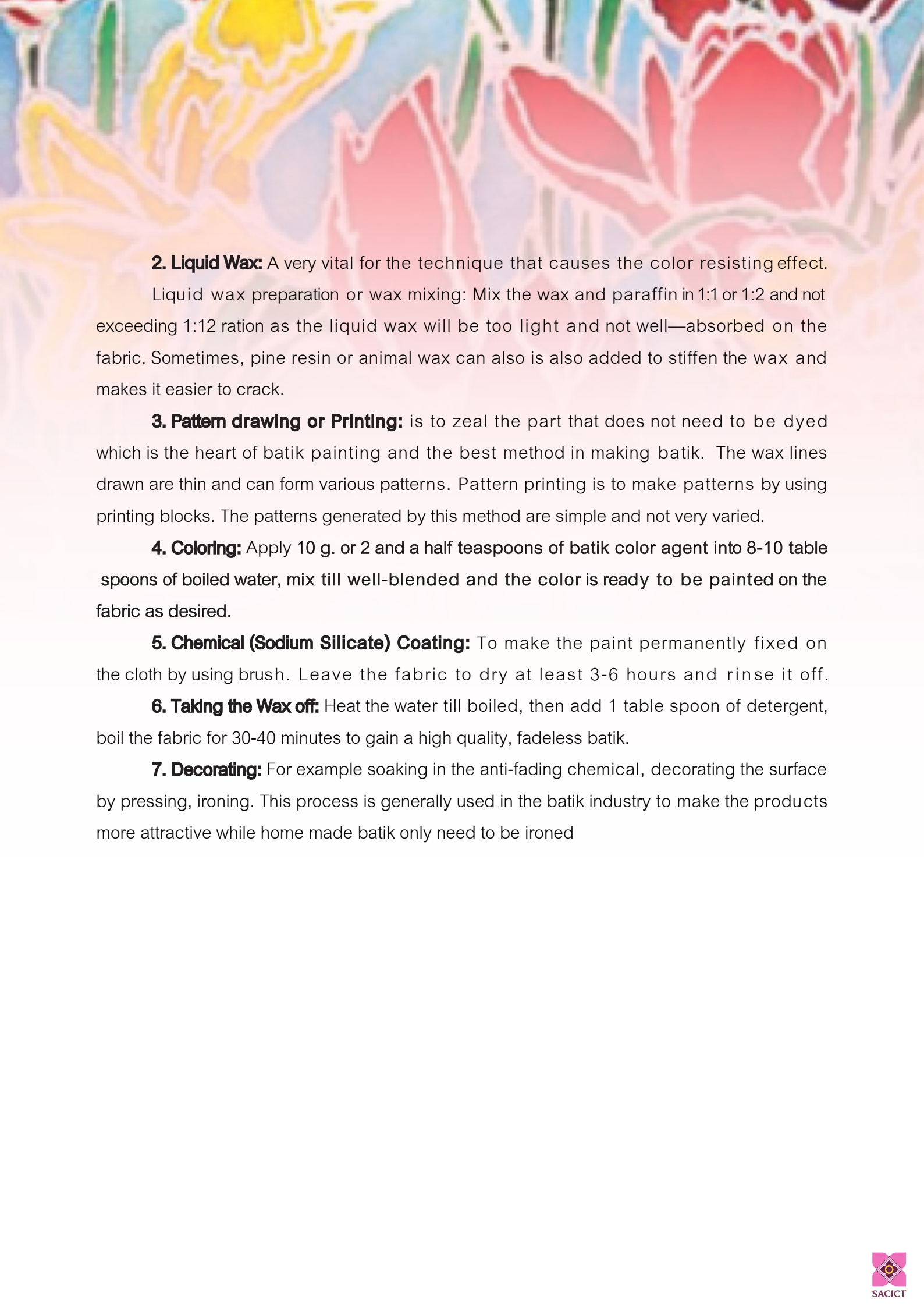
The Inheritance of the Batik Textile

In the ancient time batik making was inherited from Java Island. Batik making technique was confidential and would be inherited among family members only. Later, the art becomes commonly acknowledged among commoners. At the early age, batik was made in indigo until the 17th century when other plant-extracted colors were discovered.

Equipment in Batik Making Process

1. Cloth: Normally use cloth made of natural fiber namely; cotton, linen, hemp. Thai silk can also be used but the price is very high and requires special care in the process of making. Synthetic cloth is not suitable for batik making as the fiber is impermeable. The cloth should not be too thick as the liquid may fail to permeate thoroughly resulting in a not so sharp edge and pattern.

Cloth preparation: The cloth should be boiled in mild soda base diluted water, to remove the contaminant on the surface. The chemical used in the process are as follows; Soda ash (detergent) 1 g. /litre, caustic soda 1g. /litre, Wetting agent 1g. /litre. The boiled cloth will then be used for wax drawing and dyeing process.



2. Liquid Wax: A very vital for the technique that causes the color resisting effect.

Liquid wax preparation or wax mixing: Mix the wax and paraffin in 1:1 or 1:2 and not exceeding 1:12 ration as the liquid wax will be too light and not well—absorbed on the fabric. Sometimes, pine resin or animal wax can also is also added to stiffen the wax and makes it easier to crack.

3. Pattern drawing or Printing: is to zeal the part that does not need to be dyed which is the heart of batik painting and the best method in making batik. The wax lines drawn are thin and can form various patterns. Pattern printing is to make patterns by using printing blocks. The patterns generated by this method are simple and not very varied.

4. Coloring: Apply 10 g. or 2 and a half teaspoons of batik color agent into 8-10 table spoons of boiled water, mix till well-blended and the color is ready to be painted on the fabric as desired.

5. Chemical (Sodium Silicate) Coating: To make the paint permanently fixed on the cloth by using brush. Leave the fabric to dry at least 3-6 hours and rinse it off.

6. Taking the Wax off: Heat the water till boiled, then add 1 table spoon of detergent, boil the fabric for 30-40 minutes to gain a high quality, fadeless batik.

7. Decorating: For example soaking in the anti-fading chemical, decorating the surface by pressing, ironing. This process is generally used in the batik industry to make the products more attractive while home made batik only need to be ironed



Batik Making Process

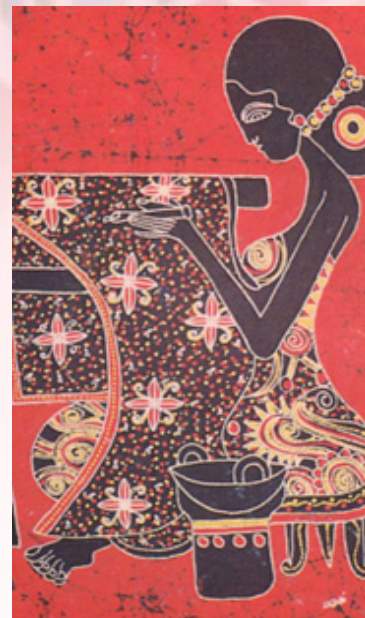
1. Cloth preparation: Selecting 100% cotton fabric in proper size of each usage e.g.; for making scarf, handkerchief, pillow case, decorating arts.

2. Stretch the fabric on the wooden frame and pinning it by using pin, or liquid wax. The later method is more popular as the fabric will be even and smoothed in all 4 sides. Using the pins to hold the fabric cause rugged surface and inconvenient in drawing

3. Drafting the outline: The maker can make a first draft on paper, if not sure. Then put the draft sheet under the cloth, the trace of the pattern would appear on the surface of the fabric or the maker can copy the pattern of the draft on the surface with light-colored pencil e.g. HB or 2B. The pencil trace will disappear after washing.

4. Wax drawing: Applying the wax on the pattern drafted. It's is very important that the drawer must make sure that the pattern is well-closed by drawing a test line at the edge to see if the line is constant without any breaking. This is because the wax line will prevent the paint form merging out of the outline. And by doing so the maker can also check on the heat of the liquid wax. Normally the wax is completely melted at the temperature of 40-50 degrees. The temperature of the wax should not be over or under the aforementioned level as the wax will fail to form the line or stiffened too fast resulting the crack on the outline pattern respectively.

5. Batik dyeing or painting: The maker needs to prepare open-topped vessels e.g., bottles, glass to the amount of colors needed. Using warm water in diluting the color matter will result in more vivid color, as the color matter is hot or warm water. Apply or paint the dissolved water color in the desired shade on the fabric with a brush in the closed pattern drawn on the fabric. Painting on the wet cloth will result in more vivid color. Leave the finished batik to dry before reapplying the paint on the fabric resulting in a more detailed than dipping or dyeing the whole piece of batik at once.



batik print

6. Coating the batik with anti-fading chemical, Sodium Silicate: The process can be done in 2 manners as follows;

1. Applying Sodium Silicate with a brush on the batik and leave it to dry for 8-12 hours before washing.

2. Dipping or soaking the batik in Sodium Silicate case till it is thoroughly soaked and leave it to dry for 8-12 hours before washing. The color of the left out area will be faded and spotted.

7. Coating chemical rinse: Wash the Sodium Silicate coated on the fabric in clean water for 3-4 times to clean out the exceeding color and Sodium Silicate from the batik. If the fabric remains slippery, Sodium Silicate is still on the fabric. The fabric needs to be soaked in clean water for another 15-30 minutes for be washing.

8. Wax cleaning: Once the batik is soaked for the mentioned period. Heat the water and add 1 table spoon of detergent/ 20 liters of water, wait until the water is totally boiled then put the fabric in and boiled it till the all wax is melted off. Do not boil the batik for too long. Doing so may cause some damage to the cloth. Wash the fabric for 2-3 times before leaving it to dry in a shaded area or ironing the fabric while it is still wet.

9. Fabric decorating: Ironing the batik in medium heat till the fabric is all neat and shiny; hand-stitch the edge to make the fabric looks tidier, and more costly and beautiful.

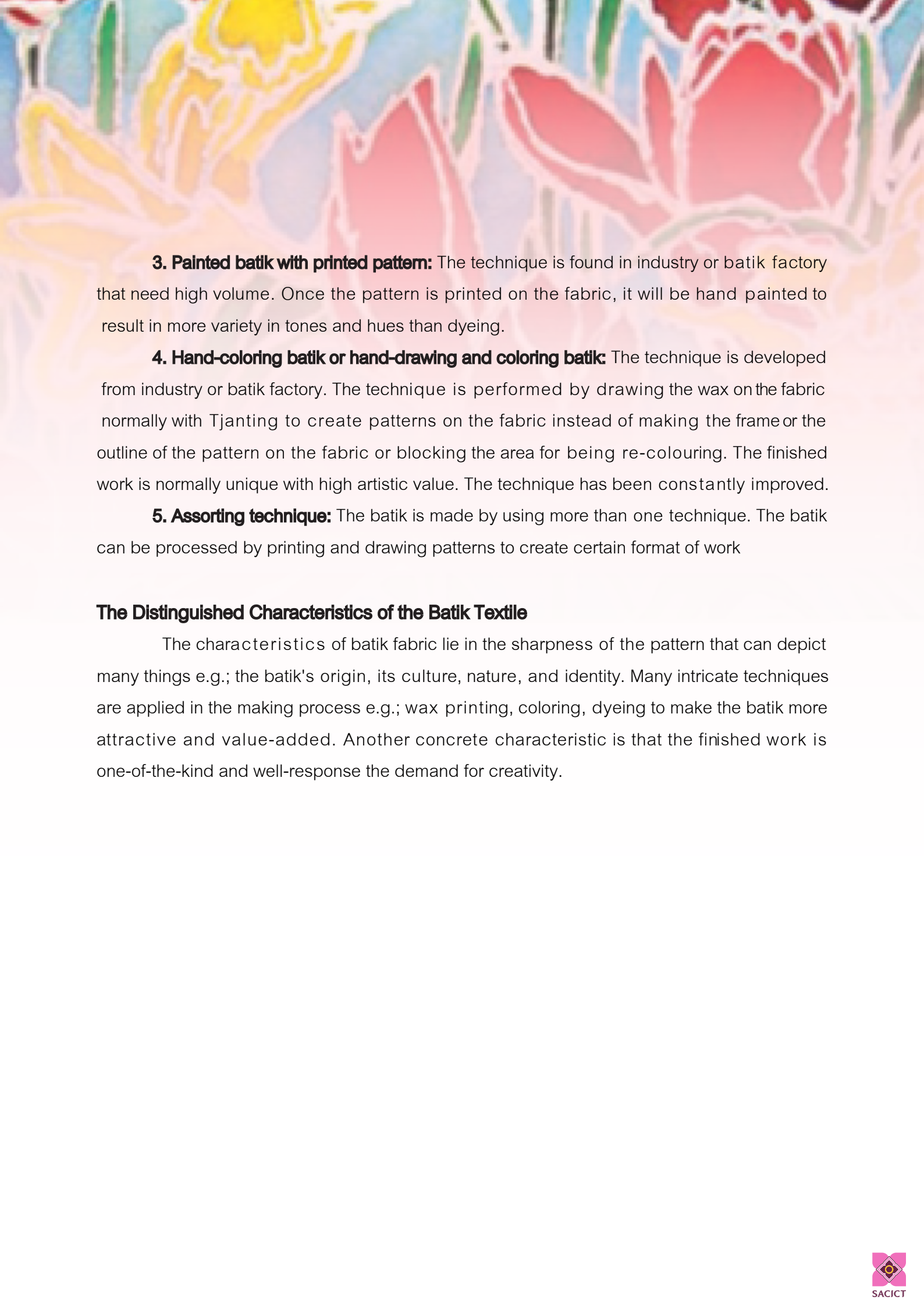
The Distinguished Character of The Batik Textile

Batik is made by drawing desired pattern on the fabric with pencil and applying the liquid wax on the pencil-lined pattern with Tjanting to make the dyeing-resistant edge on the surface and that permeates through to the back of the fabric without any breaking to achieve a unique and one-of-the-kind pattern that brings pride to the wearer.

The characteristics of batik fabric are varied by the making technique applied in creating different patterns and different usages. Therefore it is important to study the pattern making techniques as follows;

1. Dyed batik with hand-painted pattern: The maker applied the painting technique in drawing the wax lines to cover the parts that do not need to be dyed. Then dye the fabric in one or multi colors. The process starts from the dipping the fabric in the color for the appointed time and leave it to dry. If the maker would like to dye the fabric with other colors, he can re-apply the liquid wax on the dry, dyed fabric and dye it again in a different color. The processes can be repeated for other colors needed. The hand-painted pattern on dyed batik is called Tulis batik is batik drawing with Tjanting normally made by woman as it is a delicate work. Men usually work on block-printed batik as it requires lot of hard work

2. Dyed batik with printed pattern: The technique is applied in mass-production in a short period of time. The making process is similar to that of the dyed batik with hand-painted pattern except that the pattern is made by using the block instead of hand painting with Tjanting. The block is made in metal e.g.; brass, zinc, or carved wood or even rope. The printing plate or block is referred to as "Tjap". The high-quality plate is the one made with metal especially copper, which is best in preserving the heat and holding the wax resulting in more detailed printed pattern. The printed cloth will be dyed in the same technique as that of dyed batik with hand-painted pattern.



3. Painted batik with printed pattern: The technique is found in industry or batik factory that need high volume. Once the pattern is printed on the fabric, it will be hand painted to result in more variety in tones and hues than dyeing.

4. Hand-coloring batik or hand-drawing and coloring batik: The technique is developed from industry or batik factory. The technique is performed by drawing the wax on the fabric normally with Tjanting to create patterns on the fabric instead of making the frame or the outline of the pattern on the fabric or blocking the area for being re-colouring. The finished work is normally unique with high artistic value. The technique has been constantly improved.

5. Assorting technique: The batik is made by using more than one technique. The batik can be processed by printing and drawing patterns to create certain format of work

The Distinguished Characteristics of the Batik Textile

The characteristics of batik fabric lie in the sharpness of the pattern that can depict many things e.g.; the batik's origin, its culture, nature, and identity. Many intricate techniques are applied in the making process e.g.; wax printing, coloring, dyeing to make the batik more attractive and value-added. Another concrete characteristic is that the finished work is one-of-the-kind and well-response the demand for creativity.