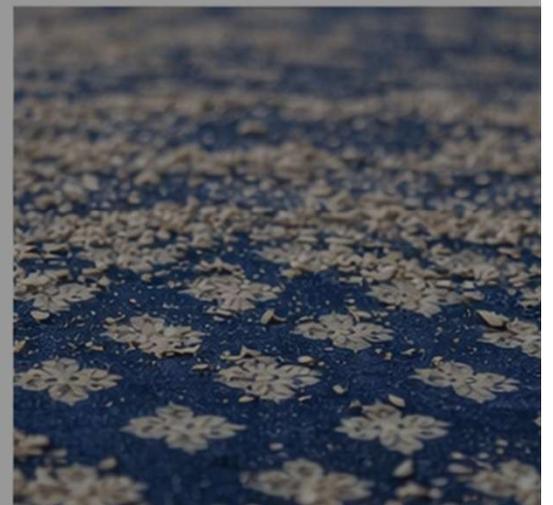


What is Dabu-Resist?

- Ancient South Asian mud-resist textile printing technique
- Uses mud paste, natural dyes, plant materials, and cloth
- Patterns emerge where mud resists dye absorption



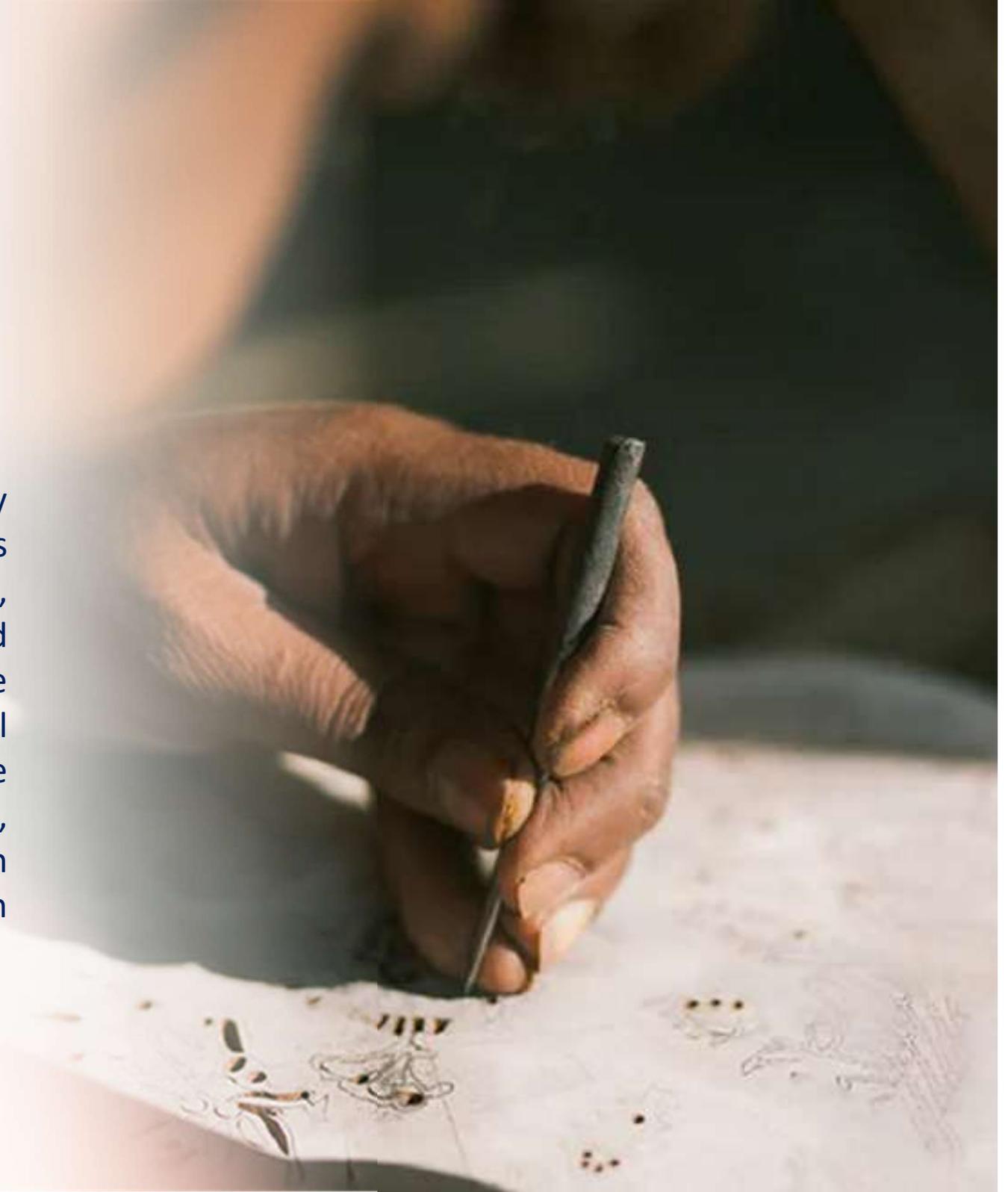
Applying Dabu

Dabu is prepared using paste from black clay, natural gum, and lime water. The fresh mixture is placed in shallow trays so artisans can reload their blocks consistently. Each impression of the block must be even and deliberate to ensure that the pattern remains clear across the fabric.



Block Carving

Wooden blocks are carved by artisans who specialise in this precise craft. Using chisels, hammers, and simple hand tools, they create intricate motifs that often take several days to complete. These blocks are treasured pieces, sometimes passed down across generations within artisan families.



Printing

Once the blocks are prepared, the artisan aligns them on stretched fabric and presses firmly to transfer the Dabu paste. This creates the resist pattern, meaning these printed areas will remain untouched during the dyeing process. The work relies on careful alignment and steady rhythm to maintain the integrity of the design.



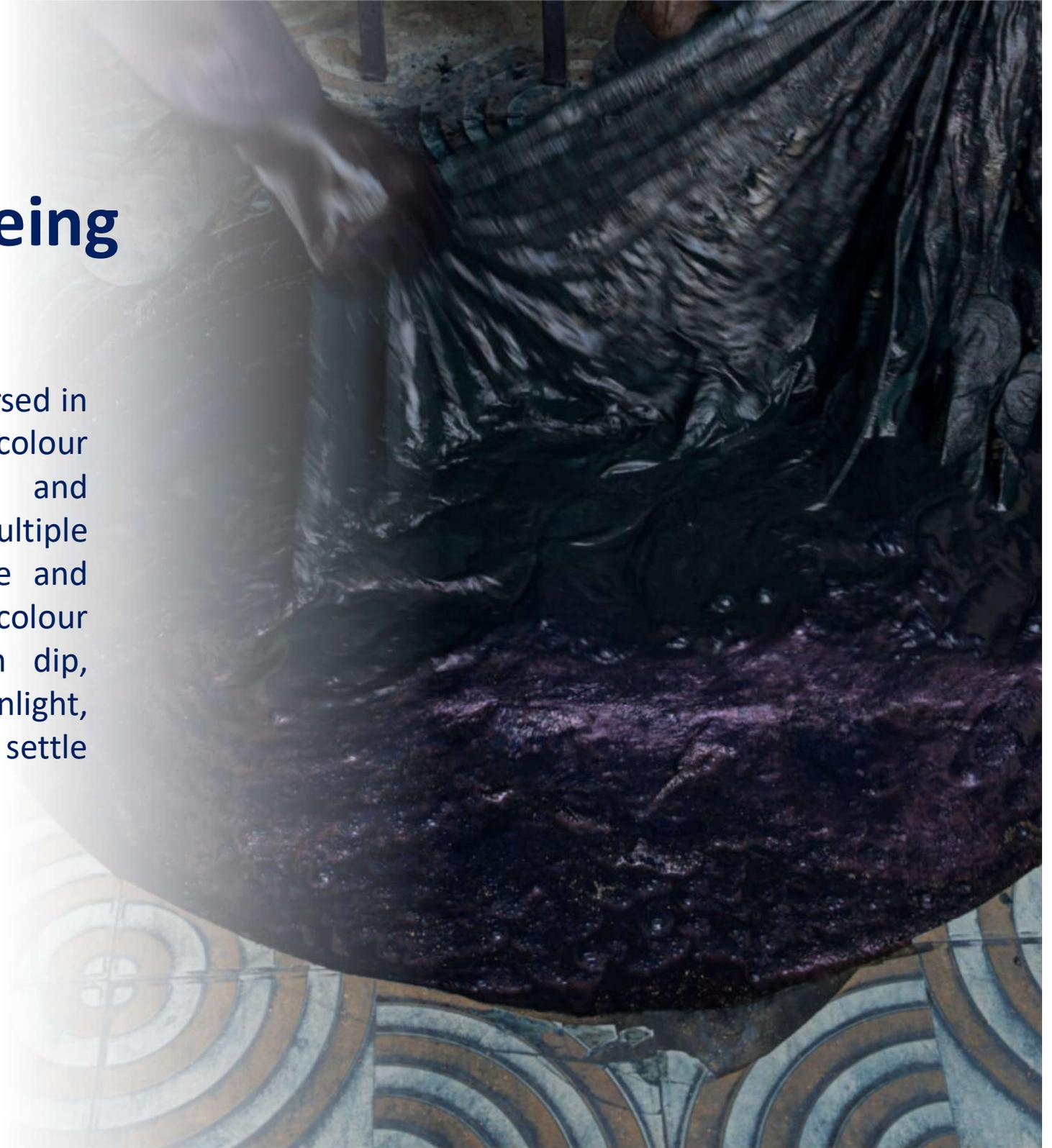
Sawdust Protection

Before the Dabu paste dries, fine sawdust is sprinkled across the fabric. This binds to the wet paste and strengthens the resist. The cloth is then left to dry under the Rajasthan sun, allowing the paste to harden naturally. Once dry, the fabric is gently washed to remove dust and prepare it for dyeing.



Natural Dyeing

The fabric is then immersed in dyeing wells filled with colour derived from plants and natural materials. Multiple dips deepen the shade and create a rich, lived in colour palette. Between each dip, the cloth is dried in sunlight, allowing the tone to settle and mature.



Final Washing

When the colours have fully developed, artisans wash the cloth to remove the remaining Dabu paste. This reveals the crisp resist areas that form the pattern.

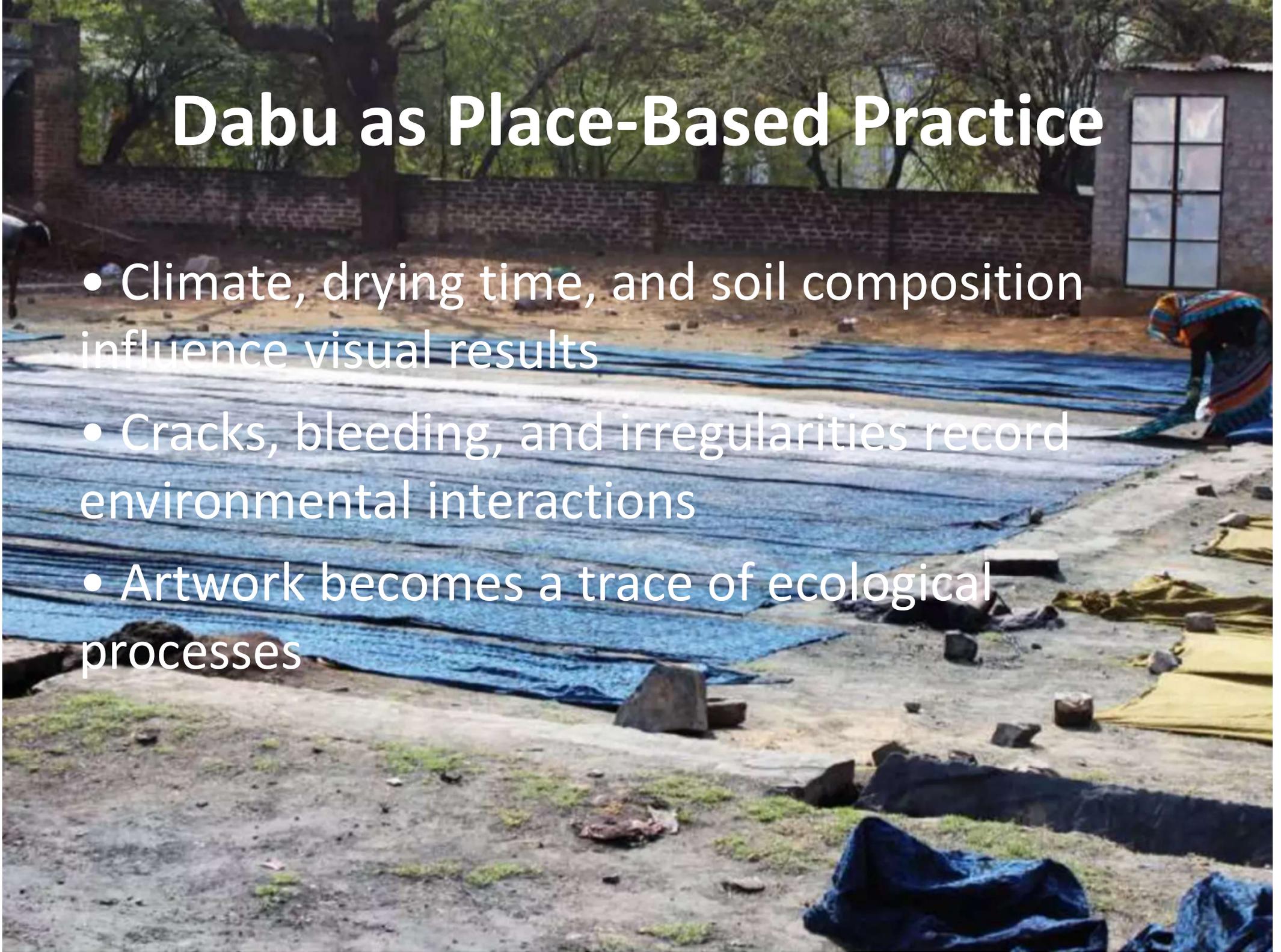


Ecological Materials

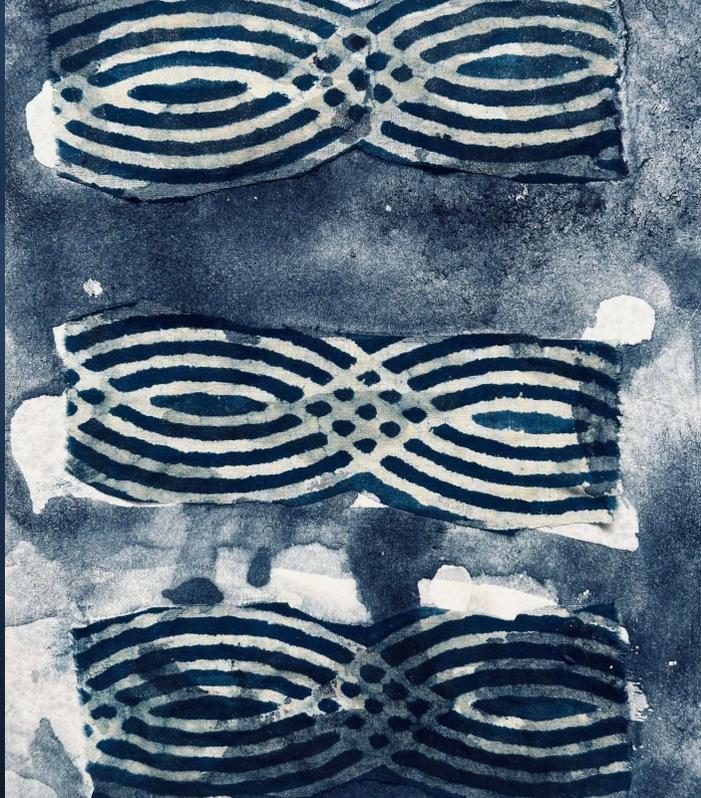
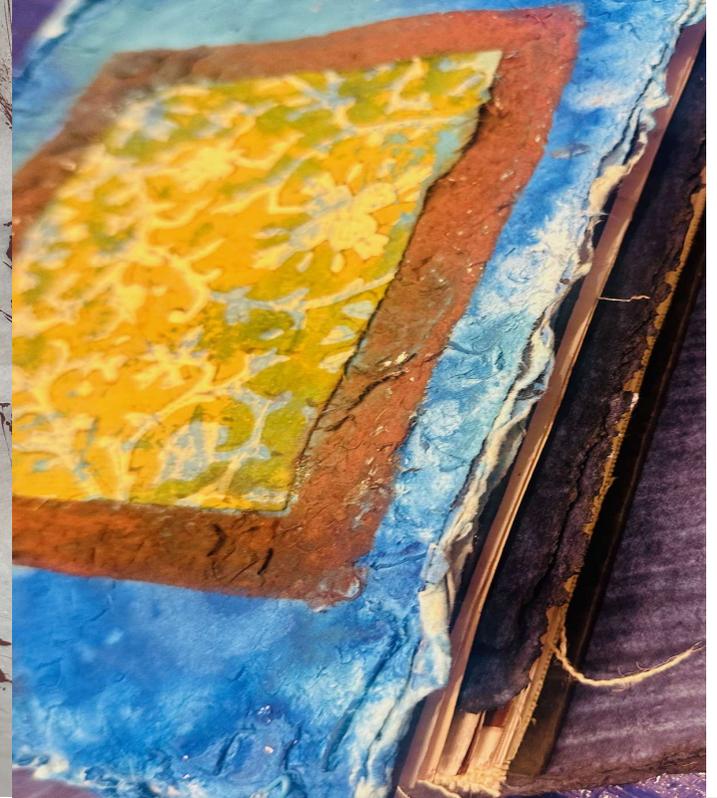
- Mud, water, lime, and plant dyes are locally sourced
- Environmental factors such as humidity and temperature shape outcomes
- Each print reflects ecological conditions

Dabu as Place-Based Practice

- Climate, drying time, and soil composition influence visual results
- Cracks, bleeding, and irregularities record environmental interactions
- Artwork becomes a trace of ecological processes



**My Studio
Experiments
using
Dabu resist
process**



Studio Experiment using indigo

- Studio experiments using indigo, handmade paper and cloth, handmade blocks to study materiality and material interaction through the dabu resist process.

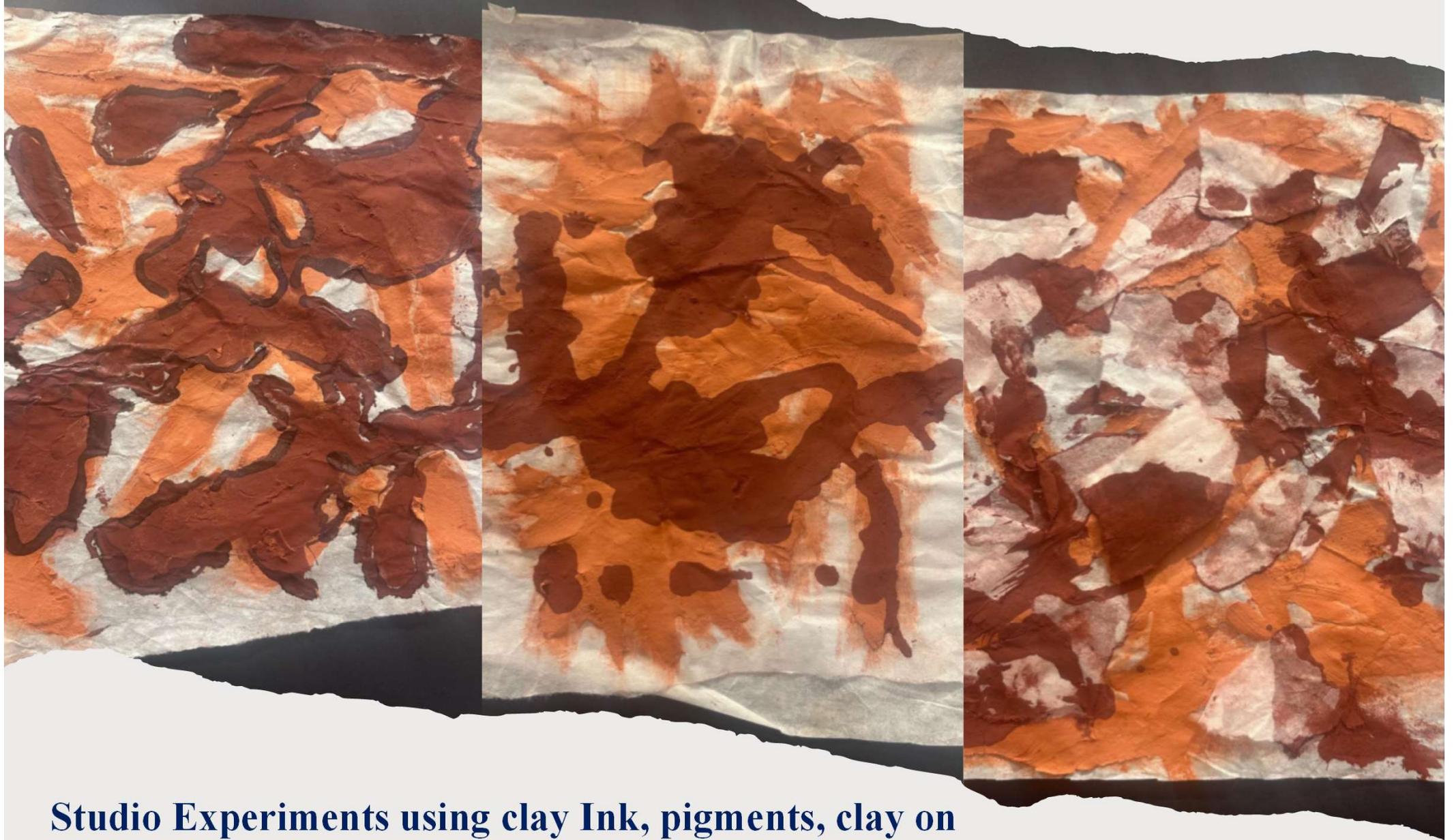




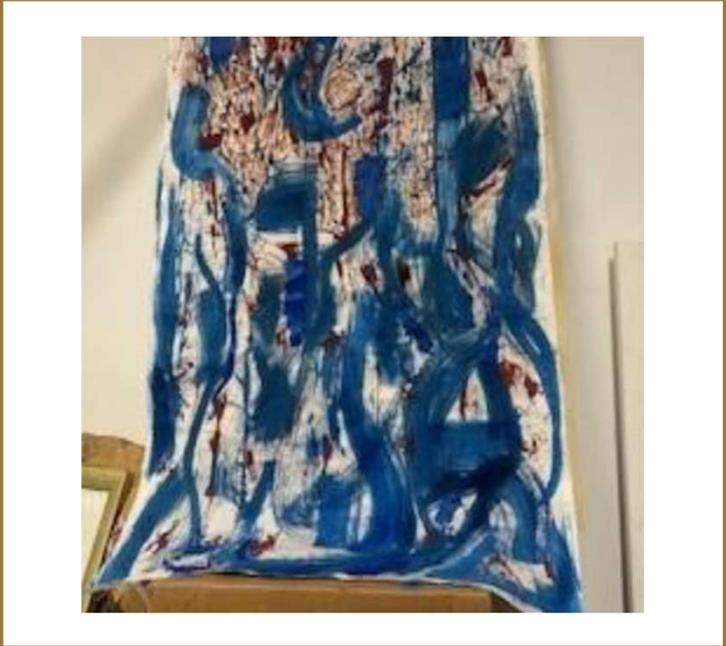








Studio Experiments using clay Ink, pigments, clay on handmade cotton paper





Pigment, paper and clay on handmade paper





Ink, pigments, cotton cloth, wax, clay and heat on board

