

FABRIC PRIMER: A Very Basic Introduction

FIBER CONTENT: It all begins with fibers - animal, vegetable, or mineral

Protein Fibers: Silk, wool, fur, leather

Cellulosic Fibers: Cotton, linen, hemp, ramie, bamboo, and

rayon (man made from pure cellulose)

Synthetic Fibers: Polyester, nylon, spandex, saran, vinyl,

etc.

FABRIC STRUCTURE: How fabric is constructed

Woven Structures: Plain weave, twill, and compound weaves Non-woven Structures: Knits and monofilaments (crochet etc.), leather, felt, paper, polyurethane, etc.

COLORING: How fabric is colored

Pigments: Basically paints that can be used on any surface. Tend to stiffen fabrics. Quite colorfast. Pigments go "on" fabric, dyes go "in" fabric.

Dyes: More complex and always fiber specific. (Acid dyes for silk, reactive dyes for cotton, etc.) Retain the texture of the fabric.

FOR MORE DETAILED INFO: See pages 19 - 29 in **Surface Design for Fabric**, (revised edition) by Richard M. Proctor, and Jennifer F. Lew, University of Washington Press, Seattle and London, 1995.



Basket Bag, 2016 (designed 1996), Luisa Cevese for Riedizioni; photo by Luisa Cevese Riedizioni



Kibiso Tsugihagi, 2016, designed by Reiko Sudo for Nuno; photo by Sue McNab



Weaving jamdani, Village Habibpura, West Bengal, India, 2016; photo by Christina Kim



Eungie skirt, Spring 2009 collection, designed by Christina Kim for dosa; photo by dosa inc.



SCRAPS: installation view at Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum; photo by Matt Flynn