

The Primary Series

[Volume I]



Plant Stencils

The Primary Series

The Primary Series developed from using simple colour theory from three different plants creating the primary colours as paint. These were *Woad* for blue; *Yarrow* for yellow; and the *Madder* plant for red, which were grown and processed by Ali in his second artist garden. A dyestuff colourant was made and sprayed making marks on the surface using the plant raw material as a stencil, leaving behind images that were made and created by themselves. These experimental abstracts reflect the plants used illustrating a depth of colour made from primitive ideas from a natural perspective.

The paintings are very raw in appearance showing leaf like designs and imaginative landscapes that morph into worlds within worlds.

Growing the plants in his garden is part of Ali's process to understand and connect with his natural surroundings. Once the yarrow plants matured and flowered they were collected and stored in his drying shed then processed into very fine pigment. The pigment is then made into a dyestuff adding alum to brighten the colour with grapefruit-seed extract added as a preservative to combat mold growth. Woad seeds were used to make blue once they have been crushed and processed into fine pigment, then made into a dyestuff as well as a paint source using gum arabic as a binder. After three years of growing the Madder plant, Ali dug the plant's roots up and processed them into a dyestuff adding alum to brighten the colour and also used to make blackish colour when mixed with woad producing a paint source. This colour was used as a dark ground before adding palette knife mark making which can be seen in '*Primary Compositions*'.

The Primary Series collection was exhibited at the Digby Gallery in Colchester and in a new gallery space at Chelmsford and Essex Museums.



Yarrow Leaves II



Yarrow Flowers



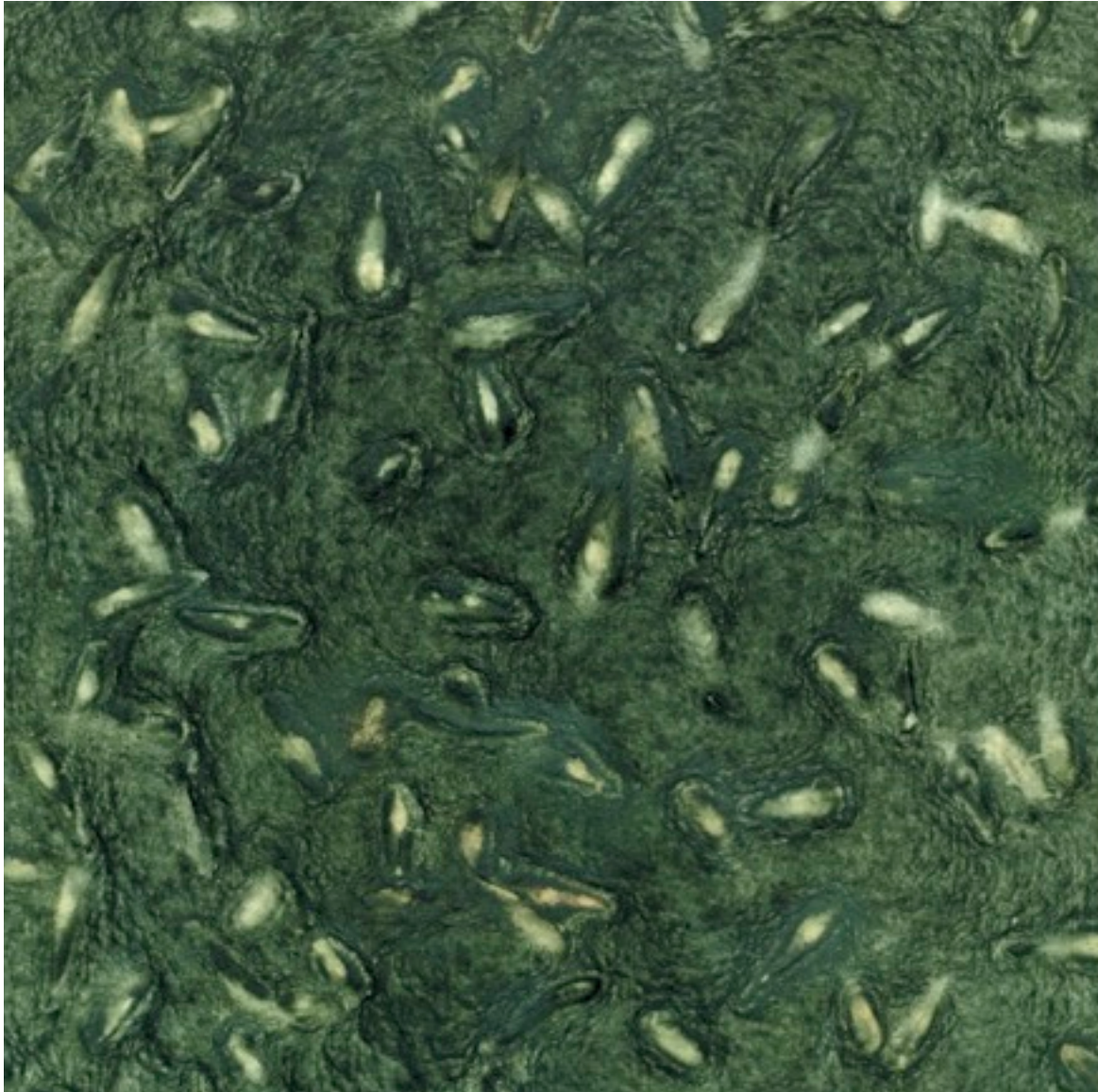
Yarrow Leaves



Mayor of Chelmsford – Chelmsford Museum Exhibition



Yarrow Leaf



Woad Seeds



Yarrow Leaves and Flowers II



Roots and Seeds



Primary Compositions



Digby Gallery – Colchester UK

The Primary Series

2006

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