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From Traditions to Innovative Design in an Holistic Approach

Japan as a Study Case

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Introduction

Based on the observation of traditional dyers and priestesses in Japan, mainly in the Ryukyus Islands and Kyoto city, focusing on traditional feminine practices involving local flora, and including the observation of techniques, customs and certain types of rituals, this poster concentrates on colouring and care practices using plants. Using a holistic approach, I look at material and colour design as an opportunity to propose new approaches to the textile industry, including considerations for the well-being of people and the environment.

Considering the concept of *Cradle to cradle* (Braungart, McDonough, 2002) as a point of view to define the manufacturing process of favourable colours, the circularity of the life of materials, including the manufacturing process, is a point of focus in this study. The ways in which plants are considered, manipulated, named and integrated into a creative process, whether material (mainly dyed textiles) or immaterial (animistic care practices involving the so-called 'invisible' world), have been observed and noted. By capturing the chromatic realities of some Japanese makings, it is possible to invest some cultural data as a potential for the future.

Some diagrams summarising the relationships observed between the different dimensions making up dyeing and care practices is proposed in order to assess the potential human-environment-plant interactions activated by colour.

KYOTO: Benibana (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.)



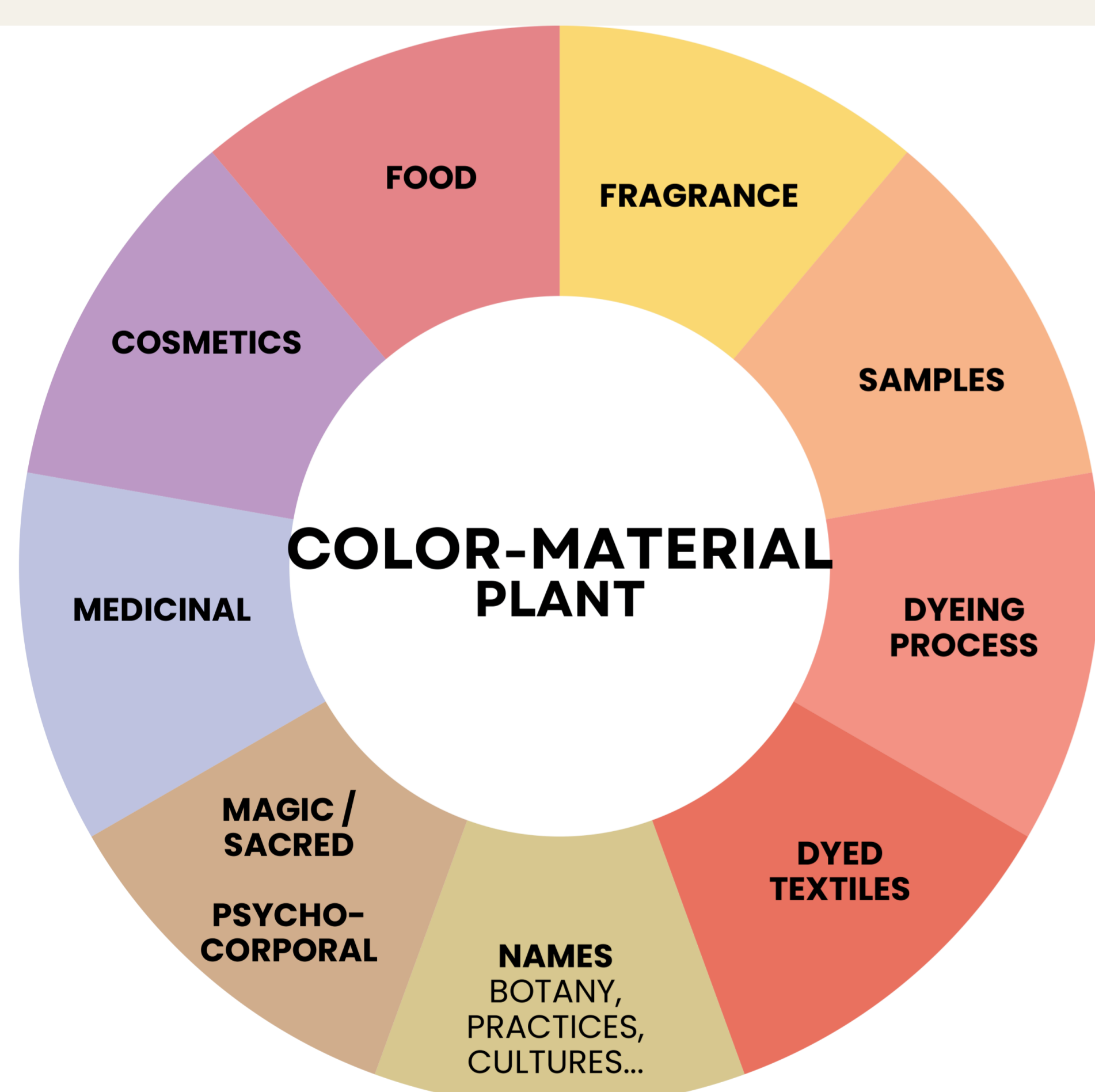
Flower ligules for dyeing textiles into pink color, coloring papers into red, or making traditional lipstick into red color and golden effects.
Rituals for new year in Nara: flower tea as talismanic drink for health and good luck.
Cardioprotective, warming, antioxidant and nourishing skin.

OKINAWA: Getto (*Alpinia Zerumbet*)

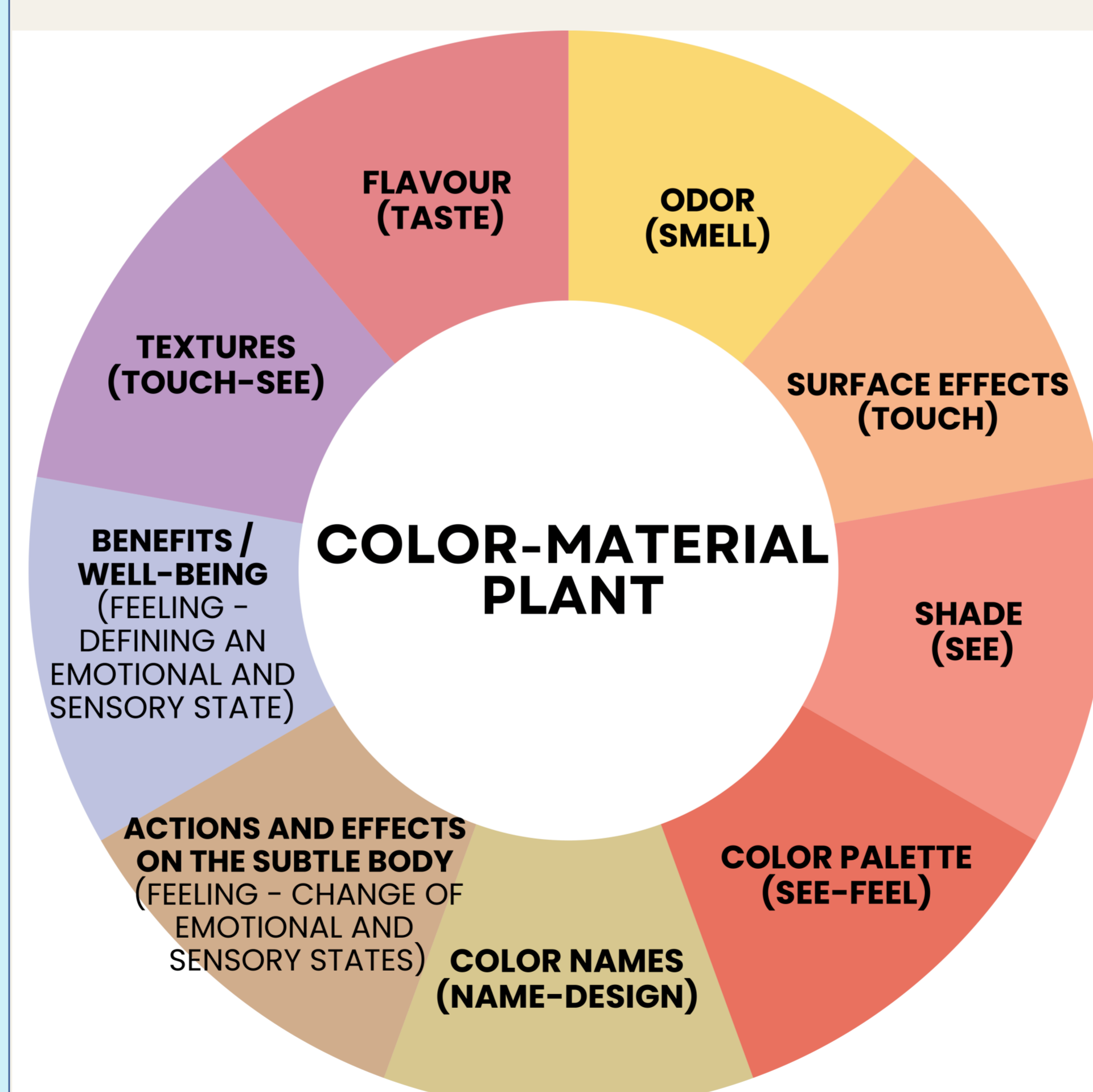


Leaves, stems and roots for dyeing textiles into pink colors.
Wrap leaves around mochi (rice cakes) and herbal tea.
Flowers with exceptional fragrance and flavor.
Essential oil, water distilled and cosmetics from leaves.
Anti-inflammatory, anti-aging properties.
Antioxidants (polyphenols, flavonoids, phenolic acids).

Indicators of plant material properties and uses



Types of sensory indicators and translation elements



Conclusion

The author proposes a holistic approach to colour and material design, based on the observation of dyeing and healing traditions, as part of fieldwork practices in Japan, with a view to developing innovative design projects.

Based on the observation of a variety of traditional practices involving different media, design ideas can be put forward, including different types of medium relating to socio-economic sectors such as textiles, paper, make-up and cosmetics, implementing a curative potential and a polysensorial dimension of material colors dyed with plants.

Key Words

Holistic approach
Tinctorial design
Care design
Sensory design
Natural dyes
Color territories
Color ranges

Bibliographical references

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