Rad Joy Flag making progress 2024 | Sarah Pimenta in the studio with Cath Bristow

Step 1: 'Scouring' boiling the organic poplin to remove residues like oils and bleach.





Step 2: (i) Adding 'Oak Gall' to the water and boiling. The tannin in Oak galls help the longevity of the natural dyes and deepens the colour. (ii) Then mixing soda ash and alum and boiling the fabric further to deepen the colour even more.





Step 3: Mixing the dye – images showing equipment and ingredients







Step 4: Mixing our first colour – madder and water







Step 5: Dying the fabric







Step 6: Deepening colour







Further Notes

We will be using a warm colour scheme calling on plants like madder, logwood, weld, coreopsis – all crops that are grown freely to make our flags.



A flock of birds from my drawing development for design...