



KAYLA
POWERS



***Naturally Dyed Textiles* is an exhibit by Detroit-based fiber artist Kayla Powers, whose work focuses on local, natural color derived from plants, foraged from and cultivated in the city. Featuring a variety of textile techniques and a breathtaking palette of natural dye colors garnered from vacant lots and urban gardens, this display shows what's possible when you look deep into a place to learn its secrets.**

Kayla Powers is a place-based artist, a weaver and natural dyer living and working in Detroit, Michigan. The preservation of the traditional crafts of weaving and dyeing—combined with an earthy urban sensibility—is at the heart of her work, and the foundation and inspiration for her business *Salt Textile Studios* in Detroit. By embracing the limitations inherent in an ever-changing seasonal palette and the utilitarian nature of woven cloth, her art textile pieces are unique reflections of the beauty and resilience of the local land, paying homage to both the ecological and cultural history of a place.

Powers has a Bachelor of Arts in art history, criticism, and conservation from Western Michigan University. After graduation she went to work on an

organic farm while taking weaving classes from the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, thus beginning dual explorations into plants and textiles. During a decade of travel, Kayla continued to study farming and gardening, fibers and fabric, until coming to rest a few years ago on the east side of Detroit where she established her home studio.



Artist Kayla Powers, weaver and natural dyer.



Dyed fabric swatches & natural pigments from Powers' Naturally Dyed Textiles exhibit.

With a strong emphasis on sustainability and locally-sourced materials, her process starts by extracting color from both native and invasive plants—including roots, bark, leaves and flowers—and using the resultant natural dyes and pigments on a variable canvas of diverse natural fibers. Powers' outdoor tapestry installation "Local Color" was a year-long study of natural dye plants found in Detroit. You can see more of her work on her website:

www.salttextilestudios.com.

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