

INDIGO



Francesco Di Mise

Major:
Computer
Science,
Interactive Media
& Game
Development



Tanisha Mitra

Major:
Robotics Engineering &
Philosophy



Jillian Burns

Major:
Biomedical
Engineering



Ziyad Ali

Major:
Mechanical
Engineering & Fire
Protection



OUR SPONSOR: JENNIFER TEETER

OUR GOAL

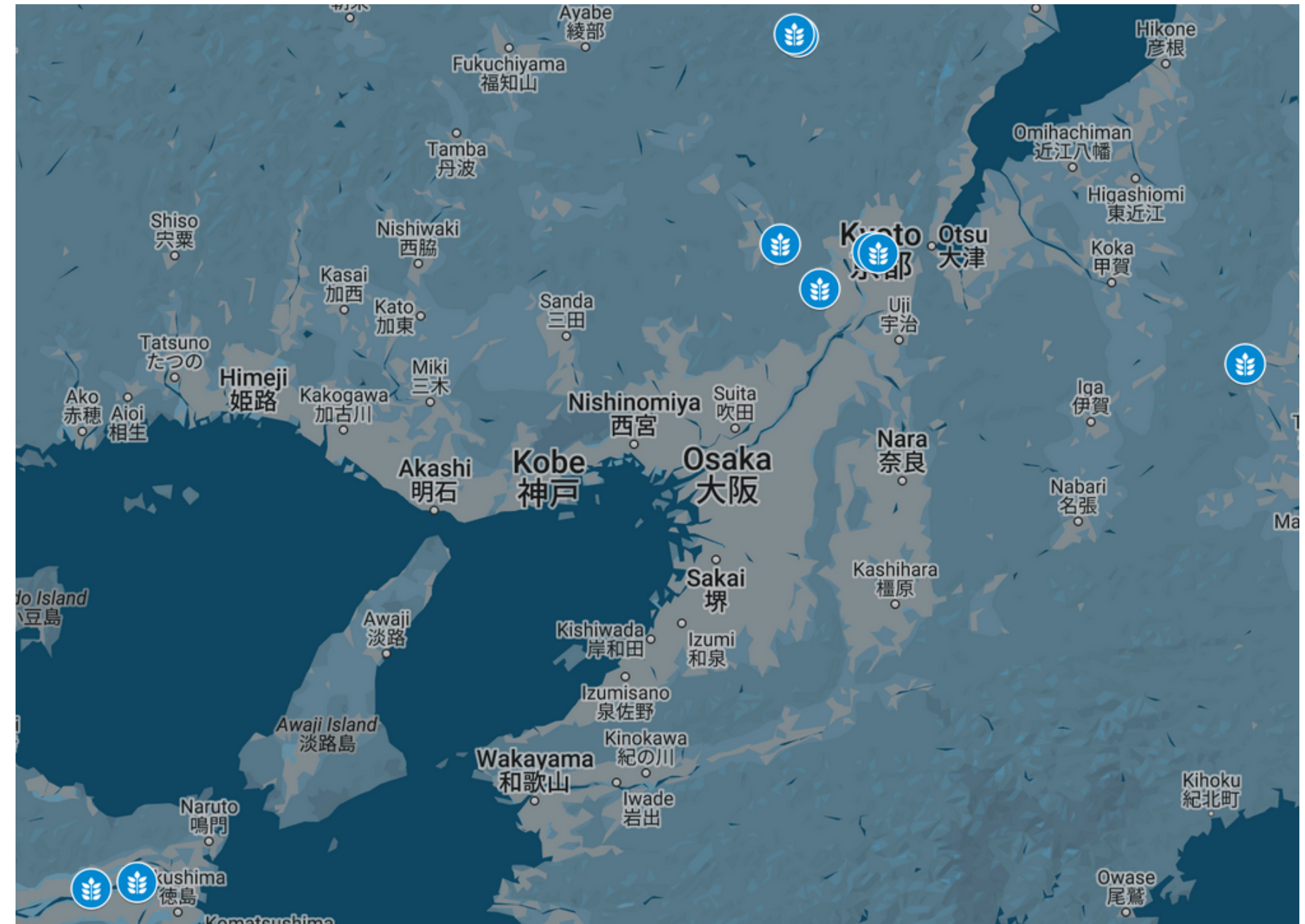
Understand the historical prevalence, cultural value, and social significance of traditional indigo dyeing to Japanese culture.

The scope of our project includes interviewing communities within Kyoto and Tokushima, Japan currently affected by and involved in traditional indigo dyeing.

Aizome artisan Riku Matsuzaki's art exhibition
at the Myoshin-ji Keishun-in temple

METHODS

- Interviews
 - Art Students
 - Artisans
 - Farmers
 - Storekeepers
- Museum Visits
- Indigo Workshops
- Mapping
- Website & Social Media
- Photography



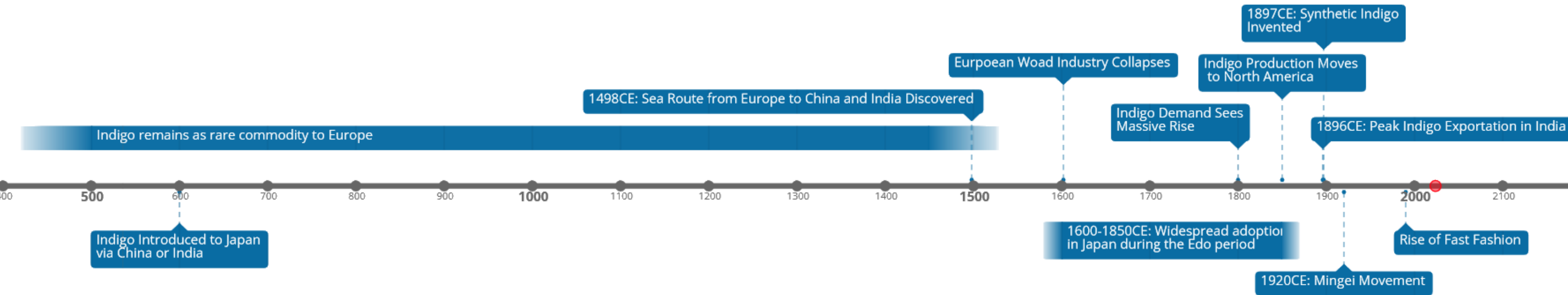
A map of indigo locations we visited

WHAT IS AIZOME?



Indigo scarves drying in the wind at Yoneda Kyoko's studio, Jikonka

TIMELINE & TYPES OF INDIGO



Types of Indigo:

India: *Indigofera tinctoria*

Europe: *Isatis tinctoria* (dyer's woad)

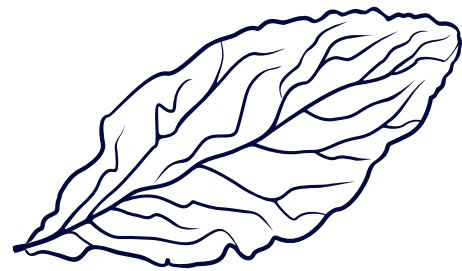
Colonial North America: *Indigofera caroliniana* & *I. tinctoria* & *Indigofera suffruticosa*.

China & Japan: *Polygonum tinctorium* (dyer's knotweed)

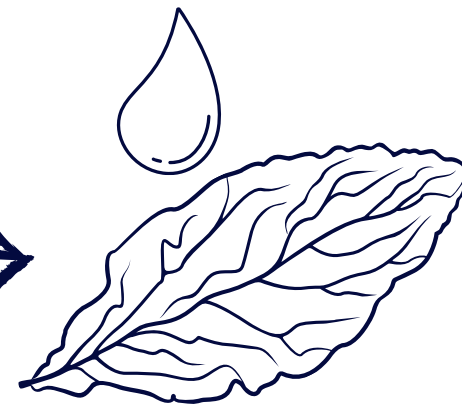
Harvested Indigo Leaf



Dried Indigo Leaf



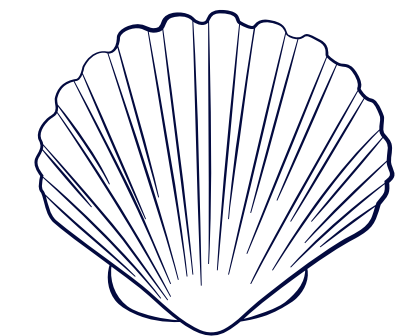
Fermenting Indigo leaf



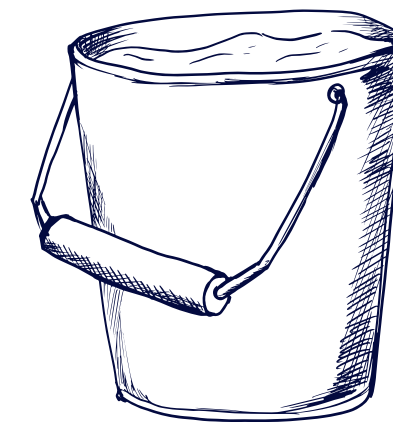
Sukumo



Wood Ash



Shell Ash



Indigo Dye Vat

Dyeing Cloth Using Indigo

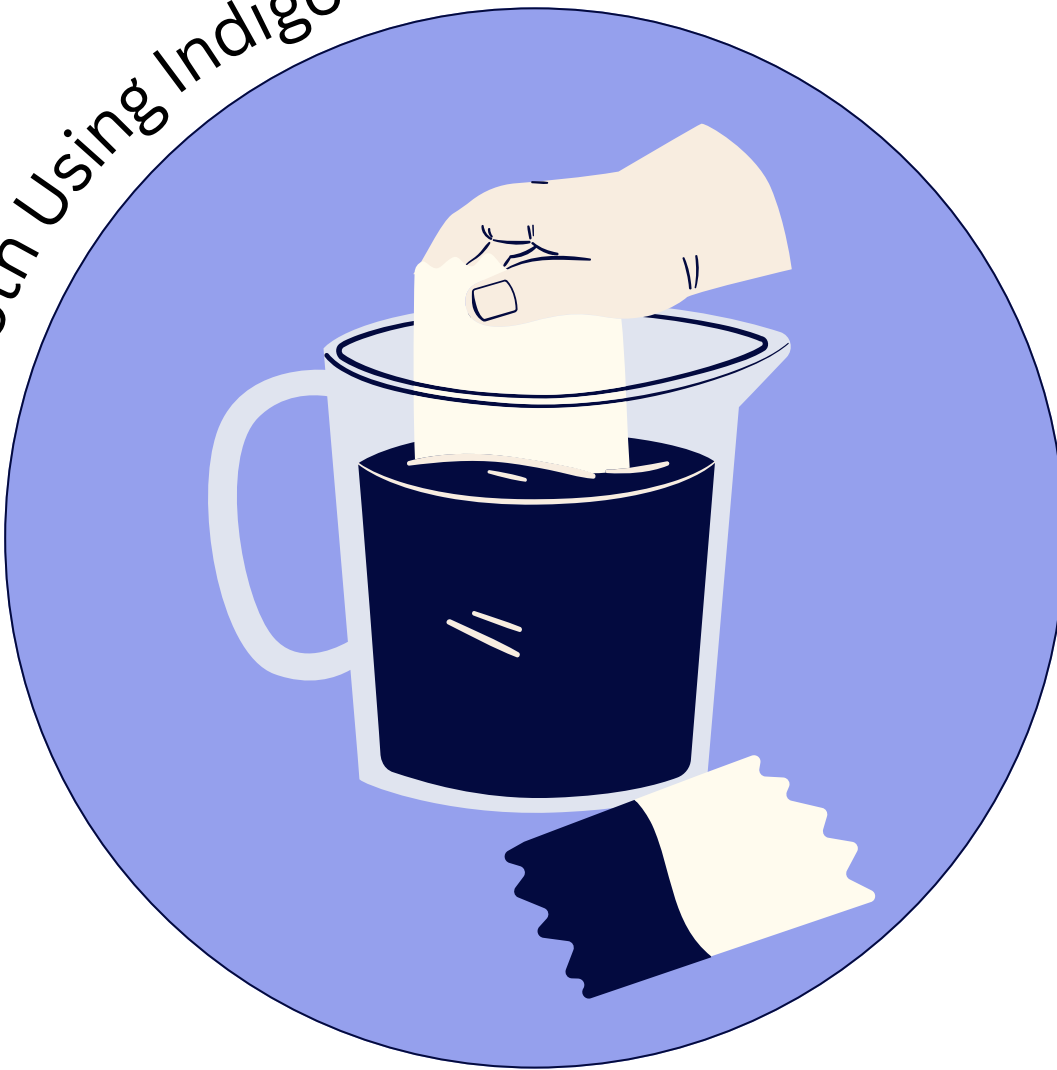


DIAGRAM OF SOMESHI INDIGO DYE CREATION

WHAT IS AIZOME?



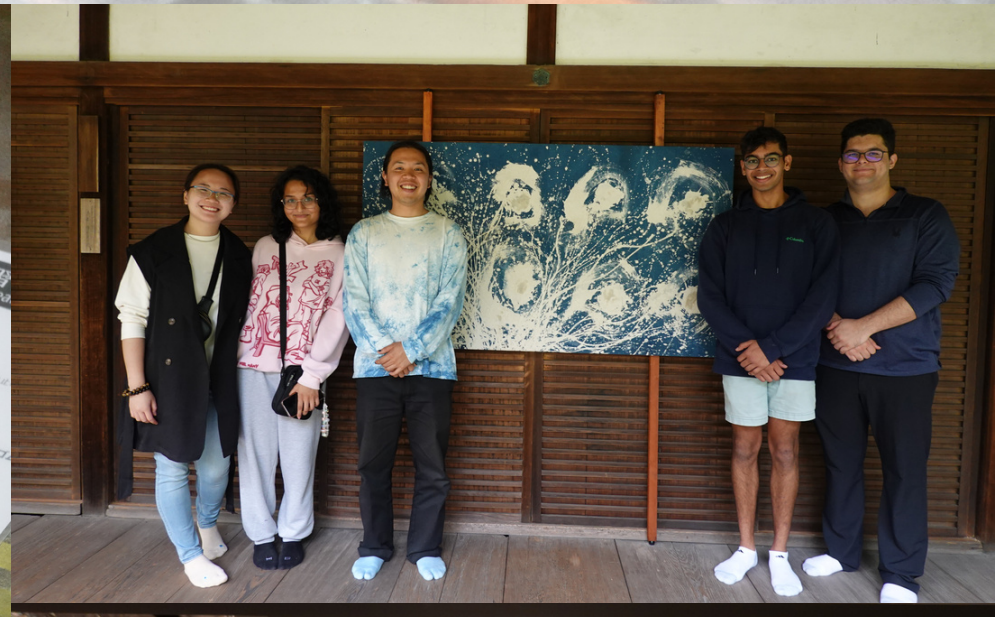
Indigo scarves drying in the wind at Yoneda Kyoko's studio, Jikonka

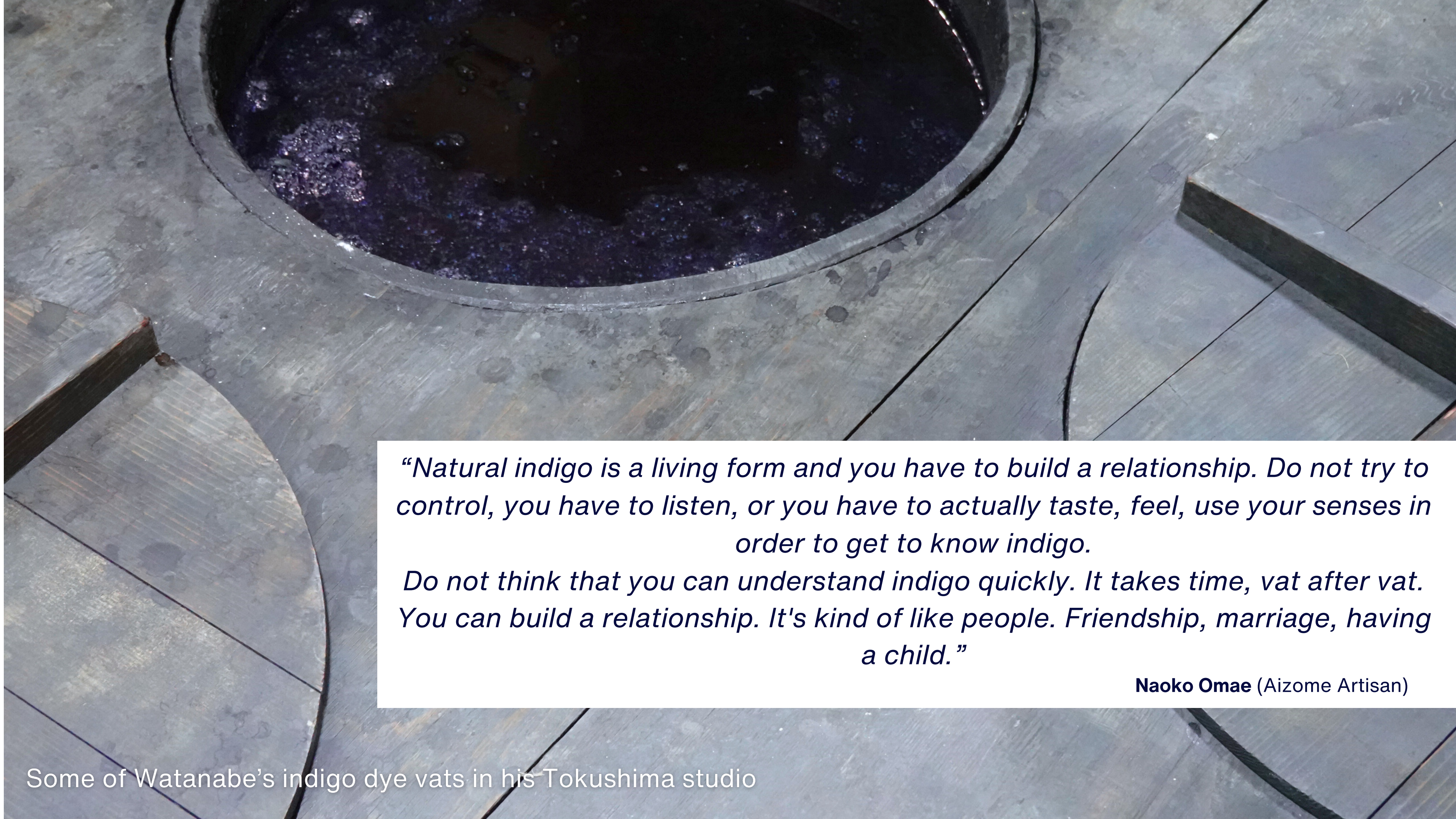
WHY INDIGO?

- Antimicrobial
- Insect Repellent
- Fire Resistant Properties
- Natural
- Sustainable
- Beautiful



INTERVIEWS





“Natural indigo is a living form and you have to build a relationship. Do not try to control, you have to listen, or you have to actually taste, feel, use your senses in order to get to know indigo.

Do not think that you can understand indigo quickly. It takes time, vat after vat. You can build a relationship. It's kind of like people. Friendship, marriage, having a child.”

Naoko Omae (Aizome Artisan)

Some of Watanabe's indigo dye vats in his Tokushima studio

A diorama of Edo period indigo farmers in Ai no Yakata Aizumi History Museum



**CURRENT STATE OF THE
INDIGO DYEING SCENE**

INNOVATION & OUTLOOK



From left to right: Watanabe's indigo drying wheel, a pH meter, a tractor, and a soil tiller

STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

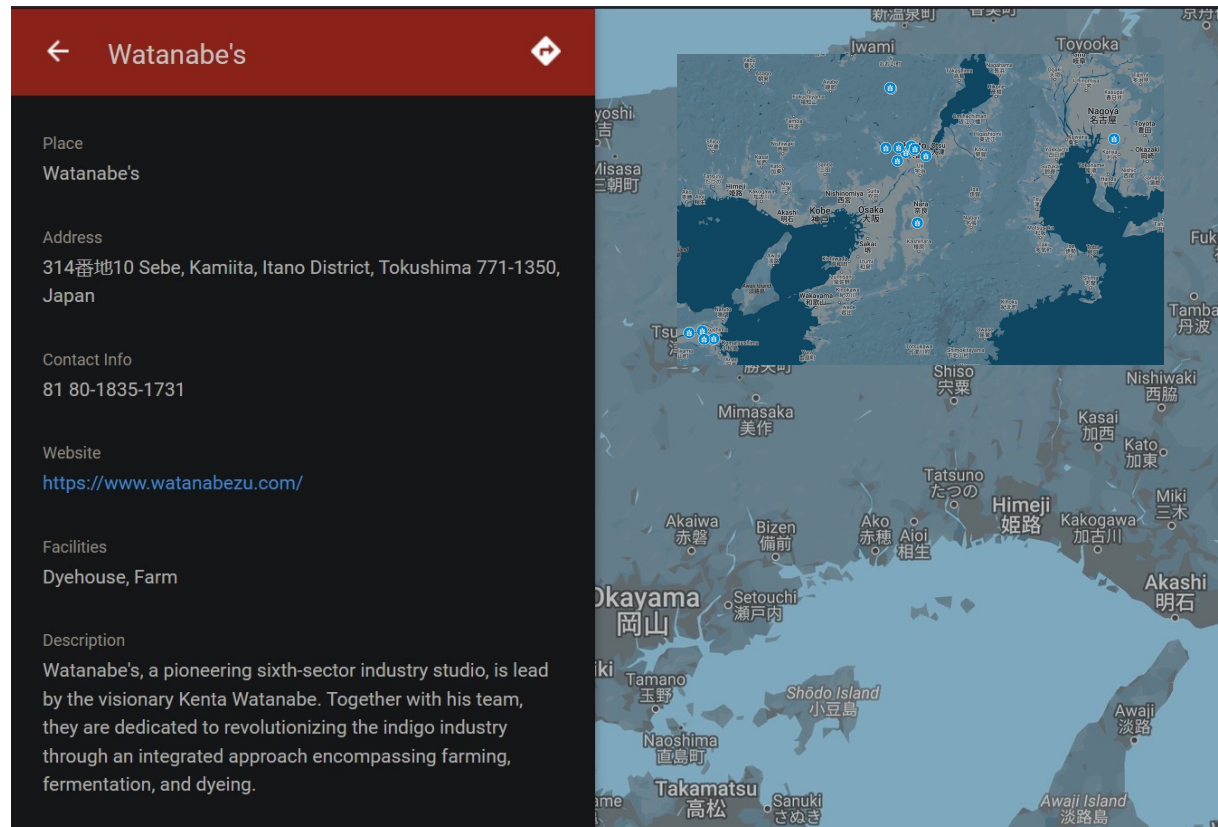
- Variety
- Innovation
- Collaboration

- Connections & Contacts
- Publicity
- Exclusive

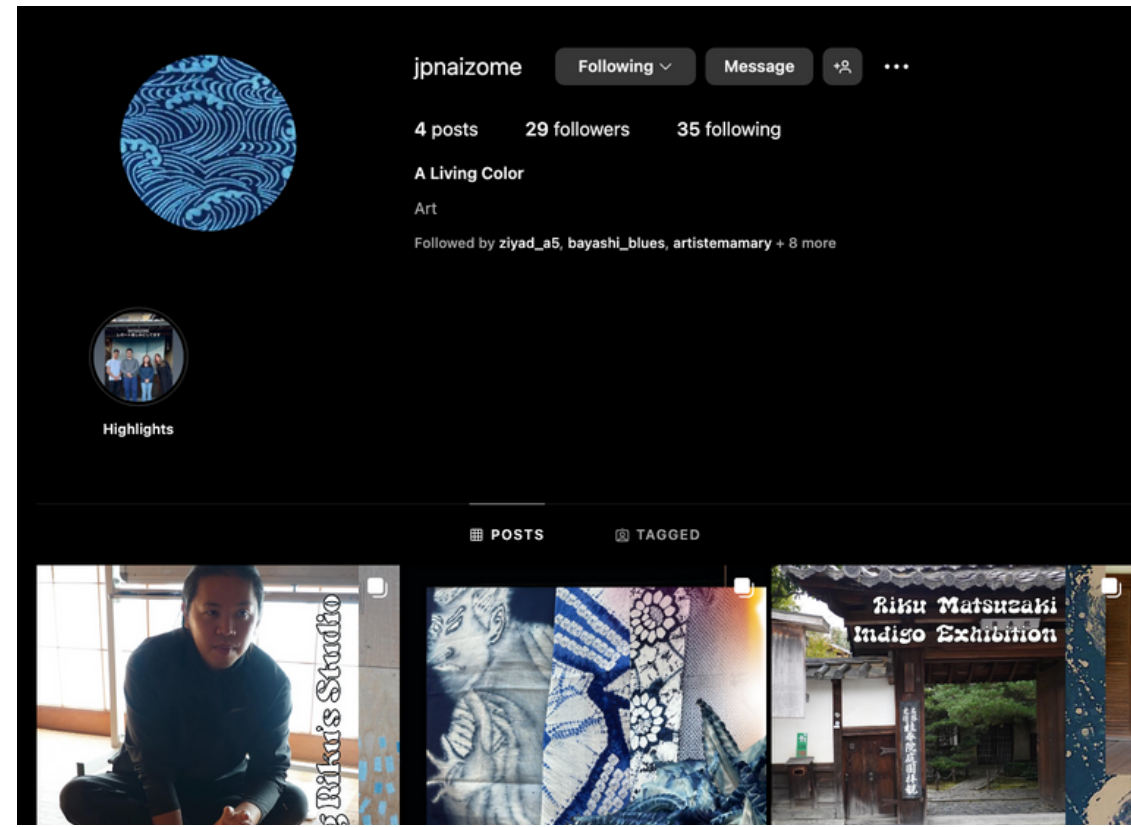
Four shirts we dyed with indigo at Watanabe's in Tokushima

CONTRIBUTIONS

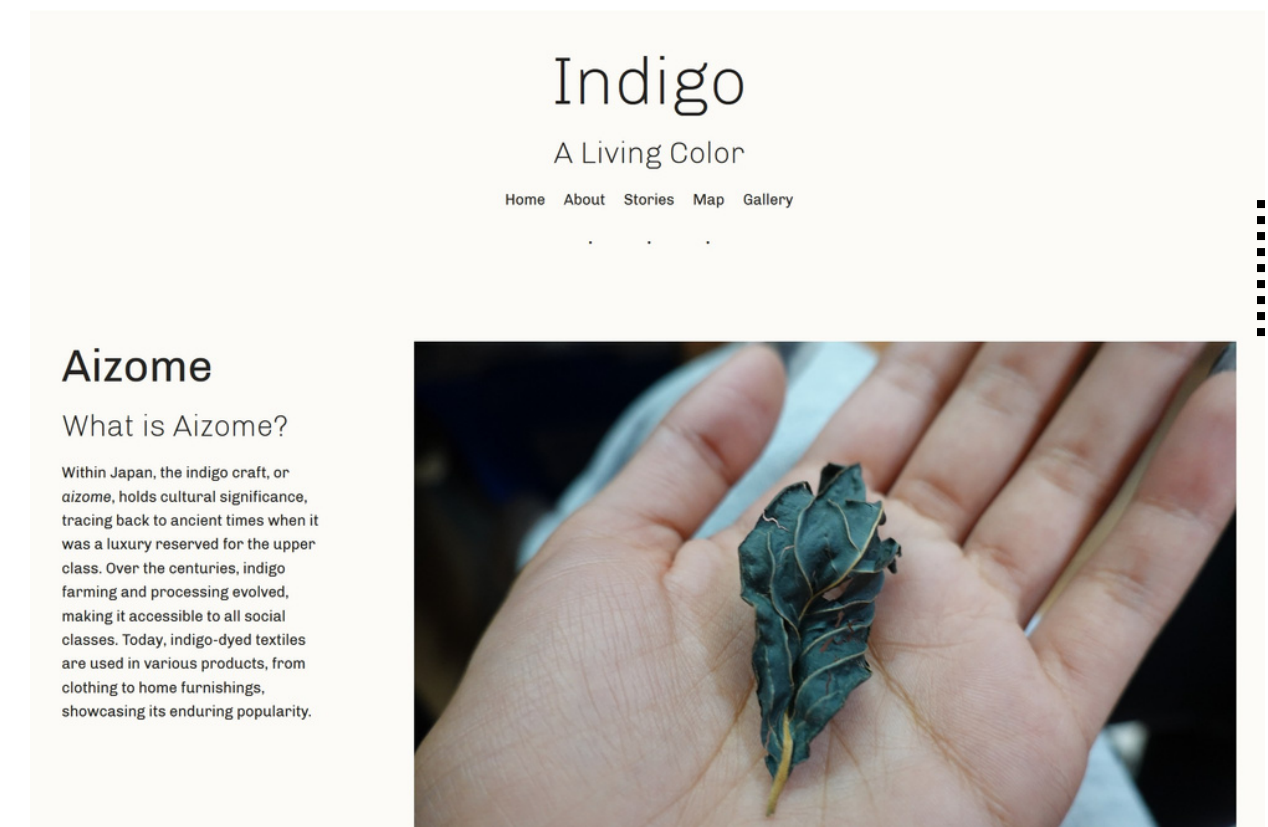
Map



Socials



Website



← Watanabe's



Place

Watanabe's

Address

314番地10 Sebe, Kamiita, Itano District, Tokushima 771-1350,
Japan

Contact Info

81 80-1835-1731

Website

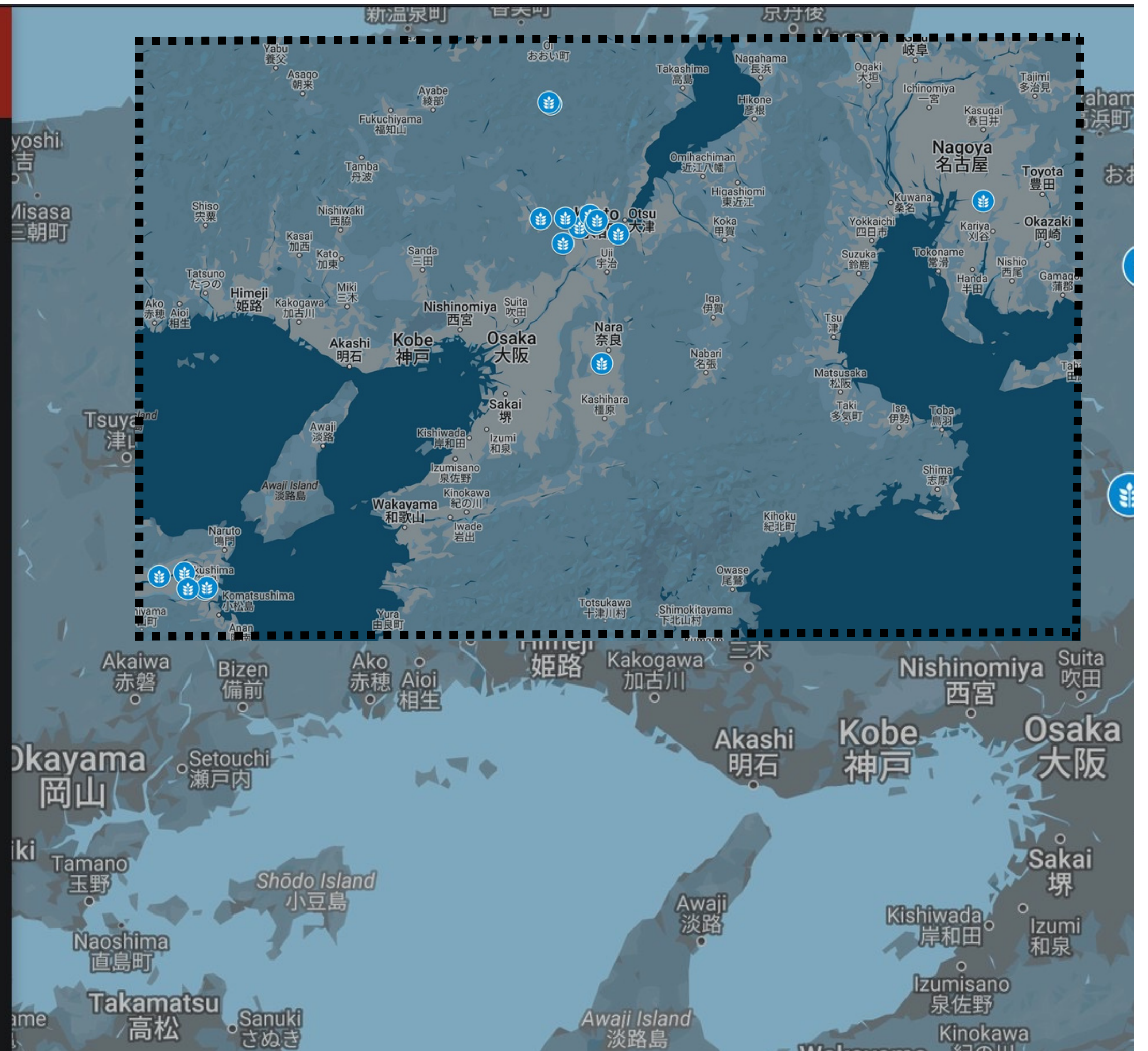
<https://www.watanabezu.com/>

Facilities

Dyehouse, Farm

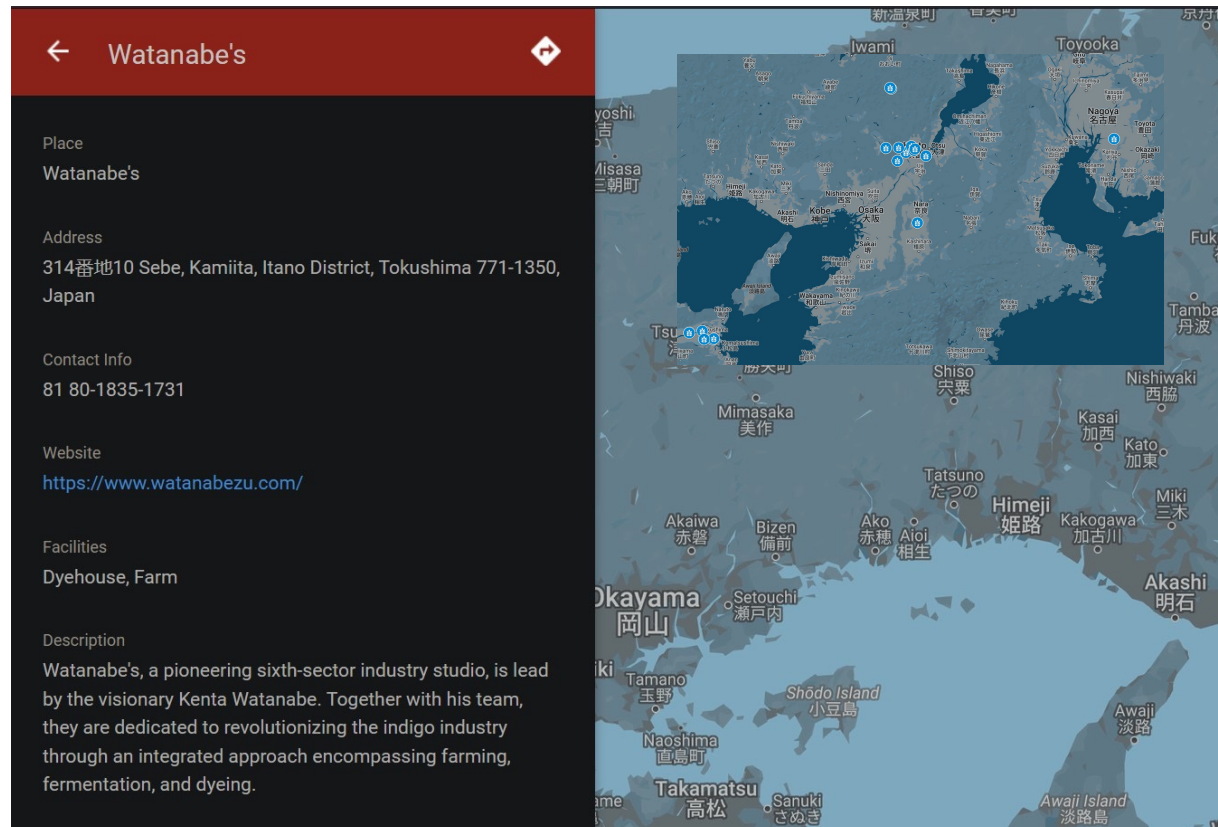
Description

Watanabe's, a pioneering sixth-sector industry studio, is lead by the visionary Kenta Watanabe. Together with his team, they are dedicated to revolutionizing the indigo industry through an integrated approach encompassing farming, fermentation, and dyeing.



CONTRIBUTIONS

Map



← Watanabe's

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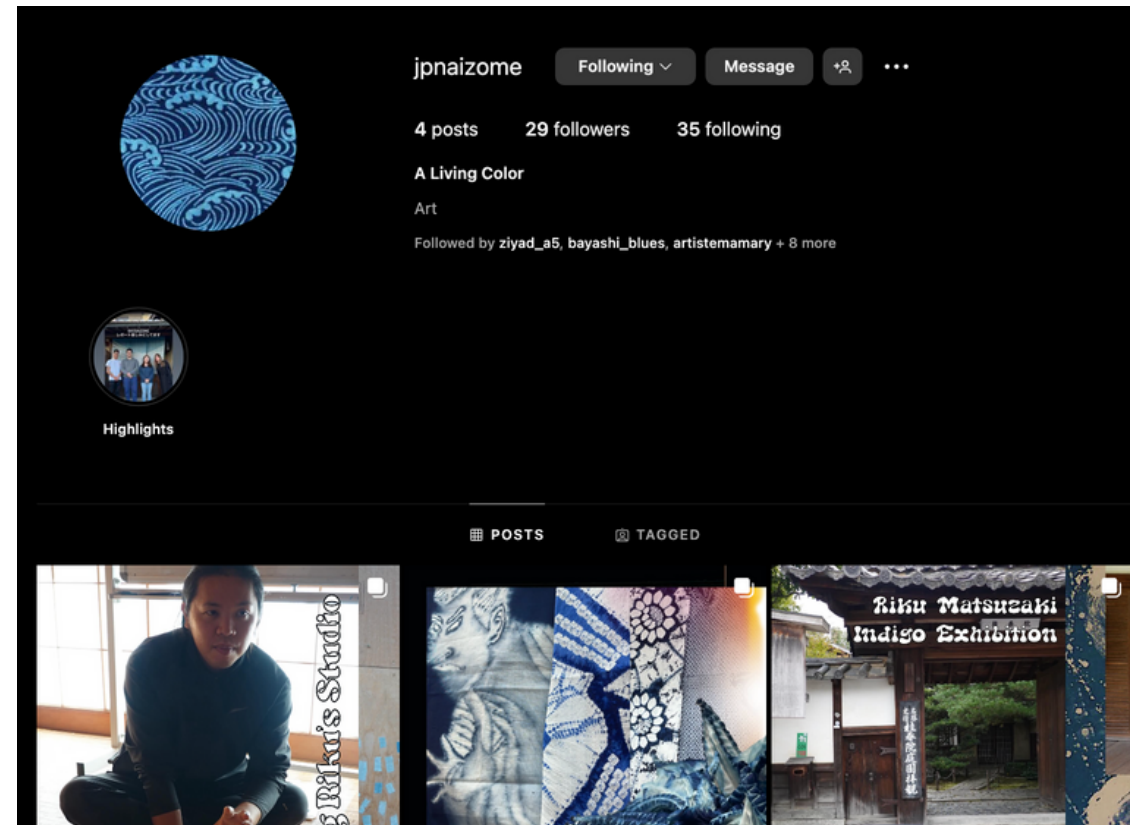
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Socials



jpnaizome Following Message

4 posts 29 followers 35 following

A Living Color
Art

Followed by ziyad_a5, bayashi_blues, artistemamary + 8 more

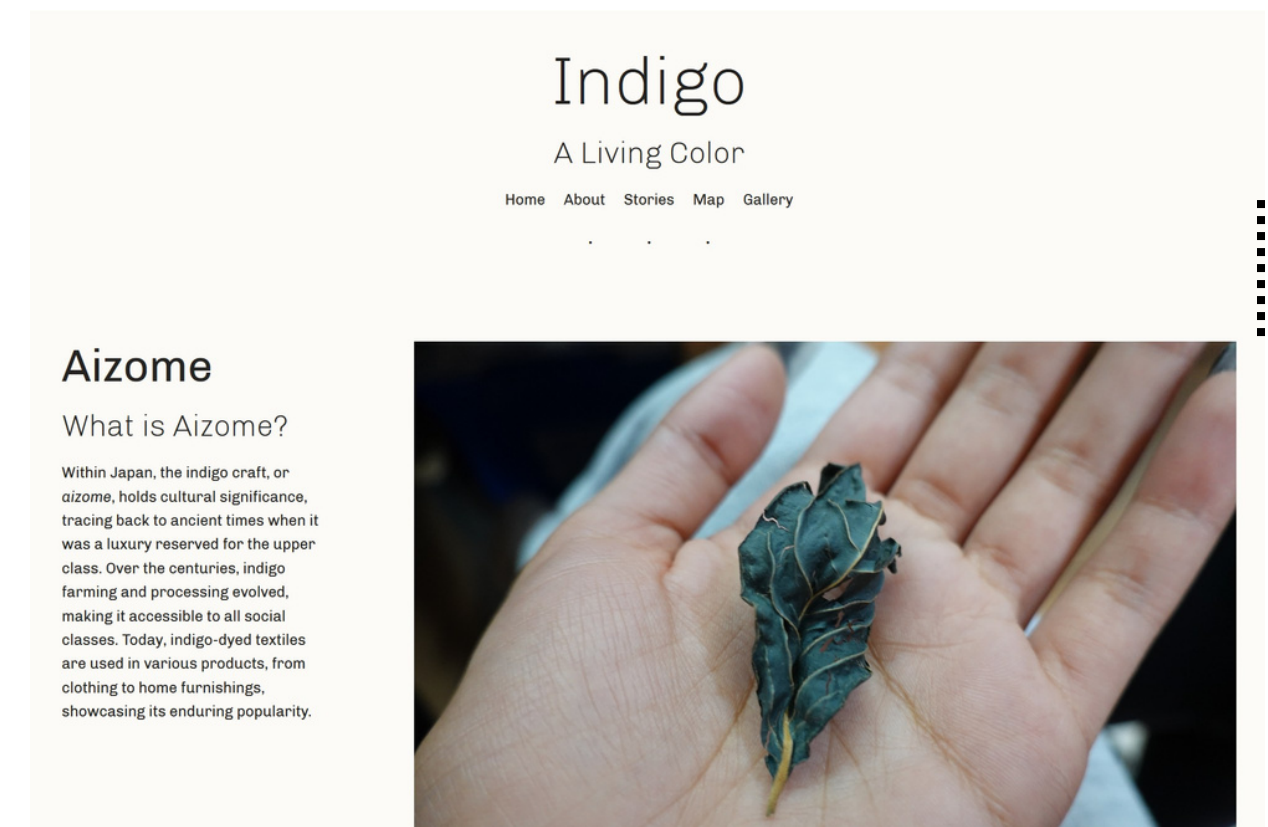
Highlights

POSTS TAGGED

Riku's Studio

Riku Matsuzaki Indigo Exhibition

Website



Indigo


A Living Color

Home About Stories Map Gallery

Aizome

What is Aizome?

Within Japan, the indigo craft, or aizome, holds cultural significance, tracing back to ancient times when it was a luxury reserved for the upper class. Over the centuries, indigo farming and processing evolved, making it accessible to all social classes. Today, indigo-dyed textiles are used in various products, from clothing to home furnishings, showcasing its enduring popularity.



CHALLENGES & TAKEAWAYS

- Preservation of Tradition
- Language Barrier
- Social Media
- Hobbyist Dyers



Indigo leaves fermenting to become sukumo at Watanabe's studio

A close-up photograph of two hands, palms facing each other, held out in a gesture of offering or gratitude. The hands are covered in a vibrant, deep blue indigo dye, which is most concentrated on the palms and fingers. The background is softly blurred, showing a person wearing a white shirt and a white apron, suggesting a workshop or classroom setting. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the skin and the glossy sheen of the dye.

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?

A student's hands after dyeing with indigo