



Longing / belonging

Explorers and researchers prided themselves on classifying, quantifying and naming the places, creatures and plants they encountered.

A wondering wanderer takes a gentler approach, respectfully noting sounds, the kiss of the breeze, the scents carried on it and the terrain under their feet. Paying attention to the sky, the passing river and encounters with falling leaves.

Reflecting on each encounter, being open to the “thin places” of the world, those we stumble across without expectation, where we suddenly find ourselves awash in time.

I have found Bretagne to be one of these places; with ancient forests, singing stones and a shoreline where sometimes you feel as though you are walking between heaven and earth. Where the sands make a mirror with the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. It is a place that somehow enables us to see further, hear more clearly, and feel more deeply. Even simple flavours seem more complex and intense when we allow ourselves to be received by this wonderful landscape.

In this five day workshop we will construct a personal notebook to carry with us on our journeys, sheltering it in a protective dyed and stitched cover that has places for pens and pencils, pockets for precious little. We will imbue the pages with local colour, add morsels harvested from discarded books and others made from repurposed envelopes and found fragments . We shall craft brushes and drawing tools from field findings and map our walks across the pages with ink and graphite, make marks, gather symbols, write words.

We will coax colour from plants, let our hands wander and draw, wind skeins of memories and begin to stitch them into a journeycloth, a soft shawl that will become a kind of comforter for the wanderer.

This retreat is about finding our bearings, making time to breathe and gathering solid ground under our feet, to sustain and support us as we travel on.

please bring ::

a ready-made shawl or a piece of cloth (silk or wool or linen or cotton or hemp, or a mixture of lightweight pieces that can be layered) to make one

a small collection of odd papers and old envelopes

a letter-sized tear-off pad (no more than twelve pages) of water colour paper (around 200gsm)

hand sewing needles and undyed natural threads

a small bag (no bigger than a shopping bag) of undyed natural fabric scraps

some buttons and beads (if you like)
a notebook and something to write with

India will supply ::

a small collection of surprises and delights including threads and also special paper to form the spine of the book.