**Textile Printing Techniques:**

Applying colored patterns and designs to decorate a finished fabric is called “printing”. In a proper printed fabric, the color is affixed to the fiber, so that it may not be affected by washing and friction.

Textile printing is a process through which a pattern, color, or combination thereof is applied to the surface of a textile. When a fabric is dyed, all the fibers absorb the dye and assume the designated color. With textile printing, however, only the surface fibers or specified area of the textile receives the color or pattern. As a result, the color is not applied uniformly but in selected regions.

As a method of printing on cloth, the earliest surviving examples from China date to before 220. Textile printing was known in Europe, via the Islamic world, from about the 12 century, and widely used.

**Methods of Printing:**

The different approaches or techniques are prevalent for printing color on a fabric on manual bases is following:

**Block Printing:**

Block printing is a special form of printing first developed in China and it is probably about two thousand years. In block printing, the design is first drawn on wood using a sharp needle and then the desired design is carved using the chisel, hammer, file, nails etc. Ink is applied to the block, and the block is pressed onto paper. Block prints can be quite detailed if the block is well made, but normally only one color is used. The process is good for making positive and negative images and repeating patterns.

**Stenciling:**

The design is first cut in cardboard, wood or metal. The stencils may have fine delicate designs or large spaces through which color is applied on the fabric. Its use is limited due to high costs involved. A stencil is a thin sheet of material, such as paper, plastic, or metal, with letters or a design cut from it, used to produce the letters or design on an underlying surface by applying pigment through the cut-out holes in the material. The key advantage of a stencil is that it can be reused to repeatedly and rapidly produce the same letters or design. The design produced with a stencil is also called a stencil.

**Collage:**

The word collage refers to the process of creating a work of art by reassembling various bits of visual information and pasting them onto a surface. The resultant work of art is also known as a collage. Collage is a way of making a new work of art out of pre-existing materials. There are endless ways of recombining images and materials to create new meanings. Collage art allows the artist to generate a new, personalized context for visual information that may be typically viewed in only one way. Patch work and applique technique are the examples of collage related to textile field.

**Ti e & Dye:**

Tie-dye is a process of tying and dying a piece of fabric or cloth which is made from knit or woven fabric, usually cotton; typically using bright colors. It is a modern version of traditional dying methods used in many cultures throughout the world. “Tie-dye” can also describe the resulting pattern or an item which features this pattern. Firm knots are tied in the cloth before it is immersed in a dye. The outside of the immersed portion is dyed but the inside is not penetrated. There are various forms of tie- dying like Ikat dying where bundles of warp and or weft yarns are tie dyed prior to their weaving. In Plangi dying the gathered, folded or rolled fabric is usually held with stitching to form specific patterns.

**Batik:**

A process of printing fabric by which the parts of the fabric not intended to be dyed are covered with removable wax. The term “Batik” is an Indonesian-Malay word. Batik is a process of decorating cloth by covering a part of it with a coat of wax and then dying the cloth. The waxed areas keep their original color and when the wax is removed the contrast between the dyed and undyed areas gives the pattern. One of the significant features of this art is that it is very simple and can be done by anyone. The art of batik is a three-stage process of waxing, dying and removing the wax. There are also several sub-processes like preparing the cloth, tracing the designs, stretching the cloth on the frame, waxing the area of the cloth that does not need dying, preparing the dye, dipping the cloth in dye, boiling the cloth to remove wax and washing the cloth in soap. The characteristic effects of the batik are the fine cracks that appear in the wax, which allow small amounts of the dye to seep in. Batik wax exercises an important function in the process of batik printing. Proper usage of wax results into an impeccable batik work. The common batik fabrics that make for excellent batik prints are cambric, poplin, voiles, and pure silk are used.

**Screen Printing:**

A method of printing is comparable to using a stencil. The background design is painted on the screen with printing paste and the dye is printed through the exposed fabric. Different colors require separate screens.

The screen is made of a porous, finely woven fabric (silk was used originally, but now polyester or nylon is used primarily) stretched on a frame constructed of wood. A stencil is created from a non-permeable material to block out the negative areas of the image. The area where the ink will flow through will be kept open.

The screen is placed on a piece of fabric. The ink is placed above the image on the screen and is spread across the screen using a rubber bladed squeegee. The squeegee forces the ink through the mesh of the screen and onto the chosen surface. Once the screen is lifted, you will see the newly created image beneath it. The screen can be used again and again. If used quickly you can do several prints in a row without the ink drying in the screen. You can use the same screen with a different color after washing and drying the screen. If you want to print with multiple colors with multiple screens, you will need to let the first application of ink dry then apply the next, working from lightest to darkest colors of ink.

There are several ways to create a stencil for screen- printing. The simplest is to create it by hand in the desired shape, either by cutting a piece of paper or plastic film and attaching it to the screen (between the screen and the printing surface).

**Silk Painting:**

The Serti (closing or fence) technique is the silk painting technique where designs are outlined with gutta or water-based resists, which are applied to white silk that has been pre-washed, dried and stretched (on a stretcher). Once the gutta or water-based resist has dried, it acts as a barrier for the dye or paint - keeping the color within the outlined areas of the design and allowing you to achieve sharply defined borders. After the dye or paint has been properly set, the clear gutta or resist is removed and a defining line the color of the original fabric remains. Colored guttas and resists are also available that are meant to remain in the fabric.