

# NOW / THEN

## Plant Ink Chen Xiaoru

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Nowadays, chemical pigments and dyes are used in most printing and coloration applications. Anything from clothing to packaging to the food we eat can contain chemical dyes that are toxic or harmful to us, our ecosystems or the environment. We flush them into our wastewater, they leach into groundwater through improper disposal, or are dumped into natural water systems for lack of better water treatment. Plant Ink brings the traditional process of ink making into the 21st century. In this simple step-by-step process, it encourages the use of natural dyes found in one's immediate surroundings to make an ink like no other.



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