

Silk Painting – Class Curriculum:

- 1) Layout cloth samples from all over the world, emphasizing the images drawn from nature and keeping things simple. Distinguish the difference between patterns, using line, texture and shape. Integrating different elements into a scarf. Creating borders, corners and images that go off the edge.
- 2) Show some of my own silk work, my business and the wholesale/retail shows I have done over the years.
- 3) Demonstration: Setting up the silk to paint - using tape to stretch the silk on the table (with freezer paper underneath the silk)
- 4) Explaining all the tools - foam brush, silk (crepe de chine), painting medium, water techniques (blooms)
- 5) Presenting options for imagery - graphic illustrations, photocopies, from real life. Remind them to think about the imagery on the samples I brought in and combine design and pattern.
- 6) EMPHASIS IS ON FUN & EXPERIMENTATION, WITH "BOUNDARIES" (color story, imagery, negative space,)
- 7) Presenting the primary dyes mixed with medium - turquoise, pink, yellow & clear medium, brief talk of the color wheel - mixing colors for secondary/tertiary colors. Demonstration of mixing on white paper.
- 8) Placing an image (B&W, graphic, photo or inspiring image) under the silk or in front of them as a guide to their painting.
- 9) Getting over the fear of the 'BLANK CANVAS' by dipping the sponge brush in color and making a stroke on the silk.
- 10) Keep It Simple, as I outline and fill in parts of the image, showing different brush strokes - creating line, shapes and texture. Referencing the Asian approach to painting. Less can be more.
- 11) Emphasizing that the colors go into the molecule of the silk when heat set - therefore layering colors is encouraged
- 12) I will consult with each student about their image, and if they are not sure of where to go with their ideas. Review composition elements such as repetition and negative space.
- 13) Students will then go to their stations where I will have taped a square of silk down and laid out the colors - pick up their brush, dip it in a color, and on the count of 3, make a stroke on the silk.
- 14) When they are done - we will have a show & tell time for positive comments from the artist and the other students.
- 15) We will roll the scarves up in the freezer paper gently - even if it is still wet.
- 16) I will review the handouts for heat setting and finishing the scarves at the students' home.