



Silk Painting Turkish Banner

*by Gael Stirler
and Deirdre Amparan*



Tools and Materials

- Drawing supplies 
 - Butcher paper
 - Markers
 - No 2 pencil
 - [Design books](#) for inspiration 
 - *Note to web students: Click on the “Comments” tab to the left to reveal extended lecture notes.*

Tools and Materials

- Silk Prep
 - Habatoi Silk 45" wide 10mm 
 - Synthrapol fabric wash 
 - Metal frame 
 - Straight pins
 - Rubber bands
 - Binder clips

Tools and Materials

- Outlining
 - 4 oz bottle of black acrylic paint
 - 4 oz bottle of gold acrylic paint
 - Clear water based gutta 
 - Squeeze bottles with metal tips 



Tools and Materials

- Painting
 - Dye-Na-Flow fabric paint (dye) assorted colors 
 - Eyedroppers
 - Paint brushes
 - Sumi brushes
 - Watercolor brushes



Preparation

- Draw a design to size on butcher paper.
- Outline it in marker so it is easy to see. 
- For a 48 banner, cut 60 inches of silk from bolt.
- Wash in Synthrapol then dry.
- Iron fabric.
- Tape silk over the drawing. 
- Trace in pencil.
- Cut off excess silk leaving a two inch margin on the sides and 6 inch margins on the top and bottom for banner pole sleeves.

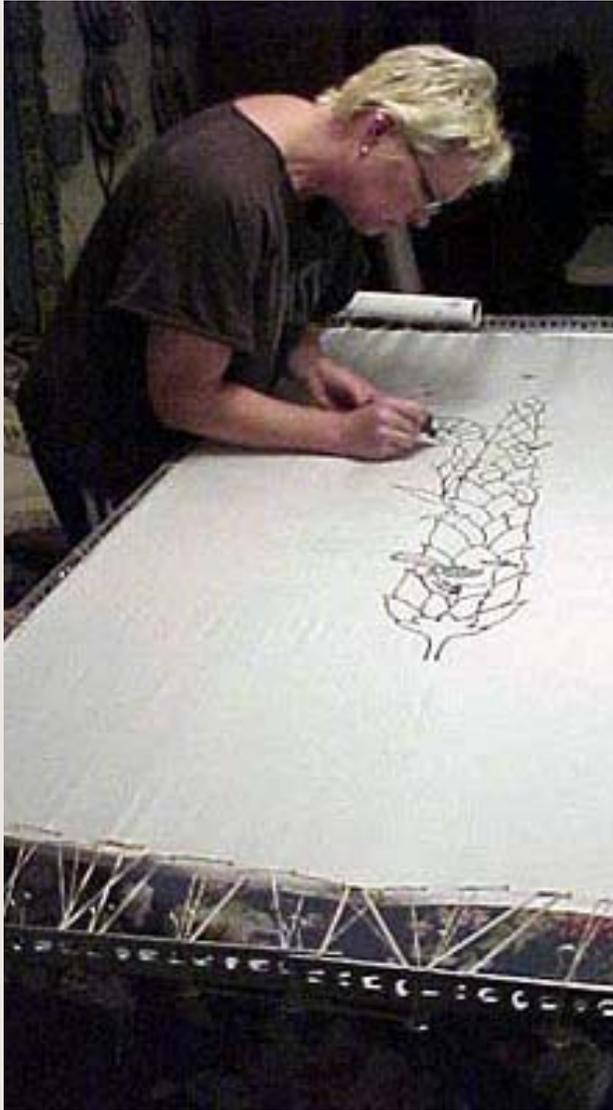
Stretching on a frame

- Set up frame to size.
 - This frame is made of metal but you could use wood instead. 🗨️
- Pin straight pins around the edge of the silk about 2 inches apart.
- Attach binder clips or thumbtacks to the frame. 🗨️
- Attach silk to frame with rubber bands, tightening as needed. 🗨️ 🗨️



Silk is strong. Make sure it is pulled tightly and that the lines in the drawing are as straight as possible

Outlining with Resist

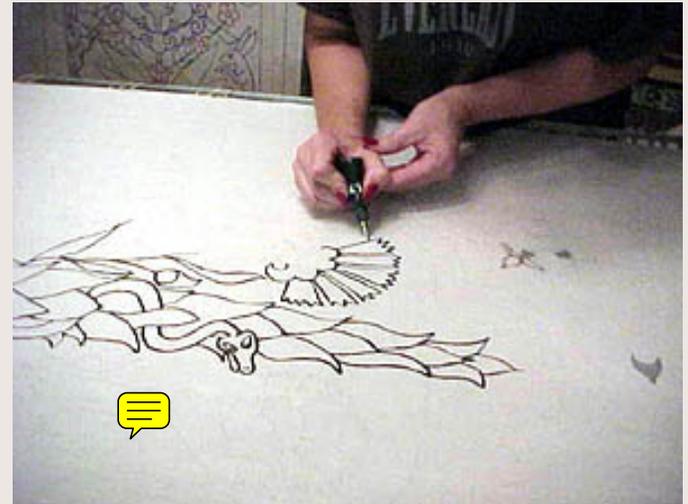


- Fill the squeeze bottles with water based gutta (resist that washes out) or acrylic paints (resist that will not wash out).
- You will use clear gutta where you want white lines and black gutta or acrylic paint for black outlines.
- Attach metal tubes to tops of bottles.
- Outline by squeezing.
- Clean metal tips often.



Avoid touching the wet resist

- Acrylic takes about 30 minutes to dry.
- Gutta takes longer.
- Steady you hand with your other hand or use a mahl stick*.
- Work from the center of the design out.
- Take breaks to allow resist to dry and to relieve tension in your back and fingers.
- Allow the resist to dry 24 hours or more if possible before painting. 



Deirdre holds her hand off the silk.

**A mahl stick looks like a pool cue with a small ball at the end. Brace the end against the frame and rest your drawing hand on the stick to steady yourself.*

Painting the background

- Dye-na-flow is a fabric paint that behaves like a dye.
- Load the brush with the background color and paint the background with long steady strokes.
- Don't paint too close to the line, let the paint flow up to the edge by itself.
- Use the Dye-na-flow at full strength for intense colors. Don't go over any areas twice if you can help it at this point.



White lines are clear gutta and the black and gold lines are acrylic paint.



Painting the objects

- Work from the lightest colors to the darkest.
- If there is a weak spot in the resist, the dye will bleed out of its contained area.
- You can't erase or hit "undo," so be careful. 🗨️
- Wash your brush or use a fresh brush each time you change colors.
- Do not dip your brush into the colors. Use an eyedropper to move a small amount to a cup or pallet.



Deirdre used an eyedropper to put small amounts of dye in a little egg-cup style pallet. She holds her pallet near the work to avoid dripping dye from the brush as she works.

Shading and effects

- Shading can be added while the paint is wet or after it has dried.
- Dry Dye-na-flow stops subsequent layers of dye from flowing so you can add details with a small brush.
- Experiment with layering different and similar colors for various effects.



Note the splotty background which will be “fixed” in the next step.

Adding the background details

- To mask the splotchy areas, decorate them with patterns for a soft brocade effect.
- Choose the same color used for the background to paint concentric circles about one inch apart all over the background. 
- Add pairs of tiny, evenly-spaced leaves.



- *The white gladiola blossoms were shaded with watered down Dye-na-flow.*
- *The centers of the flowers and the bunnies were shaded with red using a small brush.*

Finishing



The white dots and lines were made with clear gutta applied before painting. Some of the gutta was completely covered with paint but the gutta kept the color from penetrating the silk.

- Iron to set the color (about 3 minutes per square foot). 🗨️
- Allow the finished piece to dry for 24 hours before washing. Don't scrub too hard to get the gutta out or you will rub some of the color off.
- Wash in Synthrapol.
- Dry and iron again.
- Hem the edges and make a sleeve for the banner pole.

Details of finished piece



Left: The finished piece with the black border. The Arabic words are Deirdre's SCA name, Nadira bint Rasheed.

The theme of the finished banner is a Turkish doorway with a view of a cypress tree in a garden. Fog clings to the bottom of the tree which is home to a snake and a partridge.



Above: The male bunny spots the female.



Left: The female bunny is startled by his advances.

Credits

- Design and guidance by Gael Stirler
- Execution of art design by Deirdre Amparan
- Photographs by Gael Stirler
- Writing by Gael Stirler

