


Summary of Comments on Silk Painting Turkish Banner

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:42:47 PM

 Silk banners floating from poles in front of your encampment or hanging behind the head table add a special touch of pageantry to any event. They are also lots of fun to make and a great way to express your creativity. In this lesson you will learn the basics of silk banner painting and perhaps a couple of more advanced tricks as well.


Status

gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:42:58 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 11/22/2004 4:50:39 PM

 Click on these icons throughout the presentation to get lecture notes.

Status

gaels Accepted 11/22/2004 4:49:30 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 2:03:17 PM

 We referred to these Dover Books on Turkish Designs to get ideas for the art on this piece.

Authentic Turkish Designs (Dover Pictorial Archive Series) by Azade Akar

Treasury of Turkish Design: 670 Motifs from Iznik Pottery (Dover Pictorial Archive Series) by Azade Akar


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:18:30 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 2:03:13 PM

 First you will need to work your design. In this lesson Deidre paints a hanging banner 48 inches high by 32 inches wide. You can draw a sketch on a smaller piece of paper and then enlarge it to size on the butcher paper by using a graph system or a projector. Or simply compose your art at full scale as we have done in this example. Since this design was symmetrical, we were able to draw one side then fold it in half and trace the other side.

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gaels None 10/28/2004 2:02:29 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 2:06:44 PM

 Habatoi Silk and the rest of the Silk painting materials can be purchased from Dharma Trading Company.
<http://www.dharmatrading.com/>

Habatoi Silk is thin, smooth silk that takes dye and fabric paint brilliantly. It comes in "mm" weights (doesn't stand for millimeter, it's from some phrase in Japanese). We used the heaviest weight which was 10mm.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 2:07:08 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:21:58 PM

 Synthrapol is detergent for washing silk before and after dying. It is formulated to get all traces of grease and oil out of the silk so that it takes the dye well, and it keeps dye particles in suspension during the after wash so they can't bleed back onto the fabric. Use one cap full per sink full of water to wash one banner.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:27:35 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:22:24 PM

 We made the frame out of perforated angle iron purchased at Home Depot for about \$14 a 6 foot section. You can also use wooden stretcher frames made for oil paintings or a wooden frame of your own design.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:27:39 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:23:35 PM

 The outlines are applied with a squeeze bottle. The 2 oz ones are easiest to use. They come with a little conical metal tube like a cake decorating tip that makes it possible to draw lines that are relatively uniform in thickness and width. Make sure that you remove the tips and clean them thoroughly with soap and water using a straight pin to get all the paint and gutta out before putting things away or the tips will plug up.


Status

gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:24:47 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:23:18 PM

 Outlining each color area with a resist of some sort is necessary in silk painting or the dye will flow and bleed into adjoining spaces. For white lines and dots, use a water based gutta that will wash out leaving the pure white silk. For black lines you can use latex based black gutta or black acrylic craft paint. We used Black and gold acrylic paints on this banner.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:25:42 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:24:08 PM

 Dye-na-Flow is a fabric paint that is formulated to blend and flow like a dye. It doesn't leave the fabric stiff like some fabric paints and isn't toxic or difficult to use like real dyes. It only takes ironing to set the Dye-na-Flow unlike dyes that take heavy duty steaming to set. Wash up is easy, too, with any product like Lava or Orange soap.

I will use the terms dye and fabric paint to indicate Dye-na-Flow for the rest of the lecture.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:24:31 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:29:54 PM

 After you have composed your design on butcher paper, outline it with markers. Use the wide kind used for writing labels not the the kind that are like writing pens. Every color area must be separate from the other. The smaller the areas the better. For instance Don't just draw a cypress tree as one area, make it a series of leaves. Wide areas of color will get splotchy. But I will show a technique at the end for curing this.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:30:10 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:29:40 PM

 Tape the drawing to a banquet table or other stable support and tape the silk in place over the drawing.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:30:26 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:46:26 PM

 Place the binder clips all around the frame as illustrated and line them up opposite each of the pins. You can use nails or tacks on a wooden frame but the binder clips work better on metal.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:49:19 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:46:56 PM

 Set up your frame at a comfortable height. I raised mine on bricks about 6 inches above table height so we wouldn't have to bend to far. Lay the banner out flat inside the frame with the picture side up.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:34:28 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:48:11 PM

 Make sure that the silk is attached tightly and evenly.
Any straight lines in the drawing should be as straight as you can get them. Adjust the rubber bands to even out the tension to make the lines straight.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:49:25 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:48:09 PM

 The next part works best if you have two people and they work in tandem. Starting at the top and bottom attach the silk to the frame by wrapping a rubber band around each pin and pulling it over the binder clip handle.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:48:52 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:33:00 PM



A few more tips-

Don't make the lines too thin or leave any breaks in the line, the dye will be able to spread through the weak spots.

Fill in small black areas with black acrylic but if the area is larger than your finger, just outline it and paint it with black dye later.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:34:35 PM

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Author: gaels

Subject: Note


Date: 10/28/2004 1:50:48 PM

 Before trying to clean off a small mistake, consider working the mistake into the design. Some mistakes are better left ignored. In the overall scheme of things, they will not be noticed. The leaf that overlaps the snake is not the shape intended but it was better to leave it alone than try to fix it. Could you tell if I hadn't told you?

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:50:37 PM

 If you are in a hurry, you can speed up the drying time by using a hair dryer. This comes in handy when you are painting if you find outlines that need touching up.

If you make a really bad mistake, try washing it out completely right away before it dries. If that doesn't work, toss it and start over. Chances are that it already stained the cloth, so always be as careful as you can and not to make mistakes.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:33:52 PM

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Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:35:39 PM



The color that we used on this background is called Teal.
Notice the use of gold acrylic paint in the seed pods.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:36:00 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:51:58 PM



Be very careful when working with dyes. Keep your hands clean of dye. Keep the curious cats away from everything. Only hold a small amount of dye in a small cup or pallet near your work. If it spills you will be glad it wasn't a whole jar of dye. Keep the lids on the dyes when not in use. Keep your work and staging areas covered with plastic table cloths. Cover the floor with newspaper or plastic, too, if you are concerned about it.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:52:03 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:37:05 PM

 Painting wet into wet will give a soft blended effect. Watering the dye 1 to 1 will enhance the blending effect without diluting the color much. But add too much water and the dye will be able to breach the resist barrier. Painting a second coat of the same color will darken the color and is a good way to add shading. See how the carnations are shaded this way.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:37:10 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:37:42 PM

 Many different patterns can be used for the brocade effect. Swirls and spirals are best on backgrounds that are broken up with a lot of foreground images. Geometric patterns called diapering are good in vast open areas. Look for ideas in brocade fabric and tile or mosaic designs.


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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:37:45 PM

Author: gaels

Subject: Note

Date: 10/28/2004 1:38:14 PM

 Put paper towels or newspapers on your ironing board and iron the banner from the back. If the gutta sticks, it will stick to the paper and not the iron.

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gaels Accepted 10/28/2004 1:38:20 PM
