



Silk Painting

Grade Level: Middle school / High school

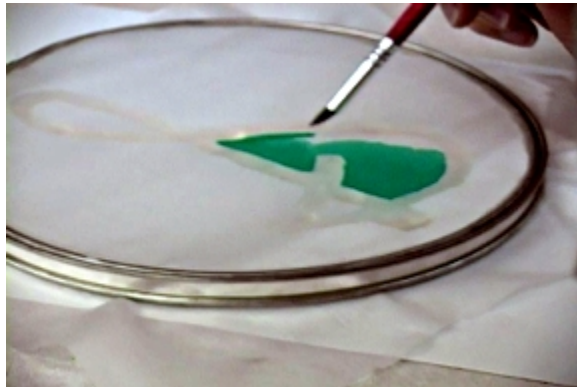
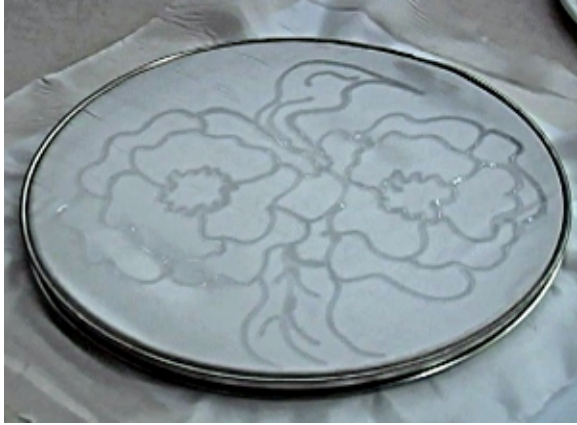
Art Content Standard: Historical textiles (silk painting)
Art history time line
Art criticism

Vocabulary/ Concepts: Symmetrical and asymmetrical design
Gutta/Resist
Silk paints
Setting process

Background/ Key Ideas: Background information on history of silk painting
processes
Technical information on process

Materials: Yardage : Silk Habotai 5 mm, 45 Inches wide, cut to 1 foot squares
OR purchased scarves
Paint: Setasilk – French Silk Paint
Colors: 01 primary yellow, 06 hermes Red, 07 magenta, 12 Gitane
Blue, 13 Cyan, 18 Emerald, 15 Turquoise, 21 Chestnut
Jacquard Water Based Resist (instead of traditional Gutta)
Brushes or Q-tips for applying Paint
Applicator Bottles (metal tips) for applying Resist
Iron (for steaming material)
Pencil and Paper (for planning and designing)
Stretchers (or Embroidery Hoops) to attach the silk to

Procedure: 1. Show examples of various types of silk painting with different
gutta colors and processes.
2. Demonstrate stretching the fabric and using gutta/resist to outline



the design. (Drawn design can be placed under stretched silk as a guide. Be careful not to touch the fabric to the drawing or the gutta/resist will puddle.)

3. Demonstrate how fabric threads will wick the paint; how easily it blends; and how it is confined by the gutta/resist (and how it escapes the design if the gutta/resist is not completely sealed).

4. Demonstrate how to set the dyes in the fabric (steam heat from iron or steaming systems). Be sure to iron between newsprint because of the gutta/resist.

5. After steam-setting the fabric, the resist can be washed out in cold water.

Assessment: Creating an interesting design/applying elements of design
Following steps in appropriate order.
Sealing the design well with the gutta.
Blending and flowing of colors on fabric.
Setting the fabric by steaming.

Enrichment Activities: Embellishing fabric with embroidery or beading.
Matting and framing fabric design rather than restricting process to wearable art.
Could also make a pillow or a purse.

For Younger Students: Glue on paper could be used to simulate gutta on silk; after it dries, watercolors could be used for blending colors within the defined segments of the design.

Resources: Susan Moyer's book on "Silk Painting" (this seems to be the "standard" and is available at Dharma, Borders, and lots of places)
<http://www.silkpaint.com> -- for techniques and discussion

<http://www.dharmatrading.com> -- good source for fabric dyes, fabric and blanks for scarves and clothing

Lesson prepared by: Laurel Winters
Canton Country Day School



One finished example of silk painting.