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Healing Art

I am primarily a self taught artist. Drawing has always been a natural form of expression for me, and my fascination with people's faces led me in the direction of portrait making.

Several years ago my focus shifted to representing my own inner images and privately held voices. My paintings became rich blends of color and design that began to reflect a journey of the spirit.

The result has been a dance with beauty that has brought joy and healing to me and those who share my art.

Recognized for their power, beauty and originality, my paintings have received awards in numerous juried exhibitions, and they have been shown at prestigious venues such as the Perkins Center for the Arts, the Art Institute of Philadelphia, the Solaris Gallery, and the Hopkins House. During a 26 year career as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant, my passion for art remained, and I maintained my skills as a fine artist. When I started to paint on silk, I was thrilled with the movement, color and light captured in the silk paintings. Their vibrancy invites the viewer to dance, to feel, and to explore the mystery. My paintings are now in over 400 private collections, and I am grateful for the appreciation, enthusiasm, and encouragement of my patrons....now friends.

Painting on Silk, the process

Painting on silk is an ancient art form. Silk paintings have the luminescence of silk fabric coupled with the brilliance of color achieved through the use of permanent dyes.

The seven step silk painting process begins when I suspend a piece of white silk on a frame. I draw a design on the silk with both melted wax and gutta (a natural rubber-like material) that resist the dyes. The wax is applied with a special tool called a tjantung, while the gutta is applied through a metal nib. I then paint the silk with French dyes whose color is brilliant and expansive. While painting, I manipulate the colors to achieve various effects of transparency, intensity and illumination.

I then roll the painting in clean newsprint for the steaming process that chemically bonds the color to the silk. Depending on size, the painting is steamed for up to ten hours. When the bonding is complete, I remove the painting from the steamer. The painting is washed to remove excess dye. It is then mounted, matted and framed.