

Silk Painting and Dying

There are many different processes which can be used for silk painting and dying.



First, the silk must be stretched on a rack...



In the process illustrated here, a water based “resist” called “gutta” is being used to create the focal point of the art. The gutta creates barriers on the silk that stop the dyes from running all over the silk. This allows me to dye within the lines.



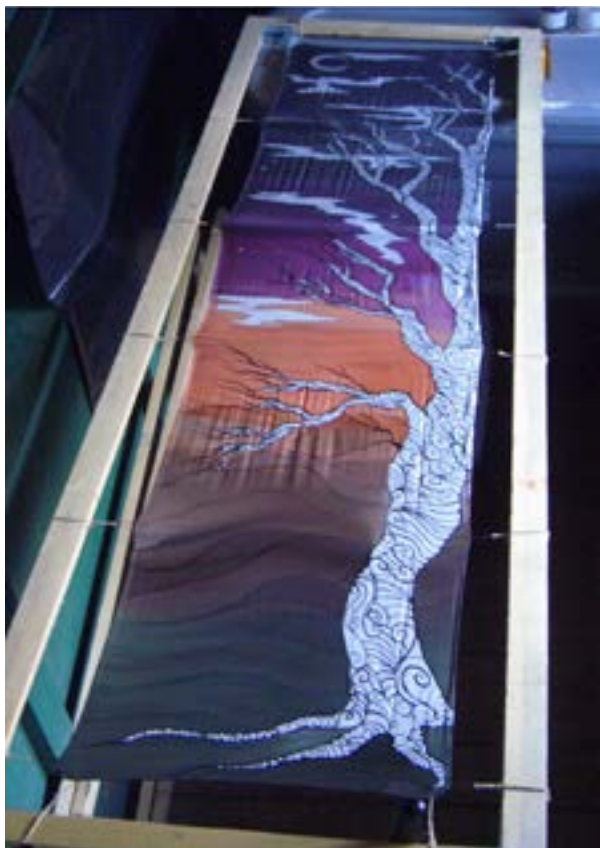
Once applied, the gutta must be dry before the next step can be taken.

When dry, it is safe to begin adding silk dyes.



Here, I have chosen to begin with the background colors. This will help me choose the colors for my tree. Dyes are applied using a layering technique to create texture and depth in the design.

I also used a *clear* gutta to create the moon, stars, and clouds. Clear gutta disappears during the steaming process at the end... leaving you with white lines to detail the work.



Once the artist considers the silk finished it is taken off the rack and wrapped in paper around a steaming core. This core is placed into a steamer for anywhere from 20 minutes to 3 hours. Steaming the art chemically bonds the dyes to the silk fibers making them permanent.

After steaming, the silk is washed and rinsed to release any excess dye, then hung to dry and ironed. The finished product is then ready to be shown for hanging, or tagged and ready for sale.