

## Claudia Fluesse

My silk work is primarily inspired by the beauty of nature, such as the inside of a flower or a beam of light between rock formations. Every second can change this appearance entirely. I endeavor to blend nature's most precious moments with my own imagination; silk is an ideal medium for this interactive play. I have always had a passion for the vibrant colors and the nature of silk's texture and flow. Since I was first introduced to silk painting, I have developed my own style and designs and continue to teach myself.

I received most of my formal art education during my adolescent years in Britain, taking A-Level Art. After graduating, I went on to study Social Pedagogy in Germany, where I am originally from. When I moved to New Mexico and discovered silk painting, art became my main focus again.



First, a rubbery substance, gutta, is used to outline the design and confine the dye. In the next step I apply the liquid acid dyes with a brush. It is not until the piece has been

steam set that the colors become permanent. The process can be quite lengthy, but rewarding. Where possible, I use water-based gutta and attempt to avoid toxic substances. I hand wash all of my silk and recommend anyone in the possession of my artwork to do the same.

I am deeply fascinated by the painting process, from the stretching of the silk, to the washing and ironing of a finished painting, I have many possibilities to use my creative skills to take a painted piece to its final form. Whether I create garments, accessories, home decor or a three-dimensional work, I feel a sense of fulfillment to have the privilege to conduct the whole process.

I employ a variety of techniques to create my silk art, many self taught. The most commonly known method I use is the Serti technique.