



## Silk Hoop Painting



We feel this is one of the best art activities because kids and adults alike, no matter what their skill level or inclinations, have great results. There is a sense of pride and satisfaction with this project. The process of painting the dyes on silk and watching the colors flow on the fabric is enchanting.

- Materials:**
- Silk Hoop
  - Paintbrush
  - Applicator bottle with metal tip
  - Jacquard Dye-Na-Flow or Silk Colors
  - Jacquard Gutta or Water-Based Resist
  - Cups or ice cube trays for mixing colors
  - Container of Water

Appropriate for ages 6 - adult. See page 2 for instructions for younger children.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

There are many approaches to painting the hoops.

- They can be painted in the traditional silk painting method of applying a resist to outline a design and then filling in the shapes with color.
- They can be painted in a more freeform watercolor style that doesn't include the use of the resist.

1. We've used an iris flower for our design. Design your own image or trace a pattern. Center your design under the silk hoop. (Use a small piece of masking tape to secure your image.) Use a pencil to first lightly draw or trace the image. The silk is light enough so that the pattern lines will be visible through the fabric. You can also directly apply the resist without tracing the image.

Drawing with the resist is done on top of the dry painted hoop.

2. **Apply the resist.** In the resist technique, the resist lines are drawn on and the dyes are applied within these lines. When applied, the dyes will flow and spread on the silk until the dyes reach the resist lines. The resist acts as a boundary between the dyes much like lead in a stained glass window.

- a. Pour the resist into the dispenser bottle, replace the plastic insert and screw on the metal tip.
- c. Hold the resist bottle like a pencil. Gently squeeze the bottle until the resist begins to flow. It is a good idea to practice on a separate piece of silk or paper until you get the feeling of drawing smooth, flowing, continuous lines. If the resist gets clogged, unclog it on a separate piece of paper - a gentle push usually works.
- d. Begin drawing your pattern. Move steadily, but not so quickly that you leave gaps in your line work.. All lines must be connected or the dye will bleed through the gaps in the resist line. Check the back side of the hoop to make sure you can see that the resist lines have penetrated the silk. If you see any gaps fill them in. Allow the resist to dry completely, usually thirty minutes. Use a hair dryer to speed up drying time.



## 2. Mix and apply the dye. Use Dye-na-Flow or Silk Colors.

- a. Use the paints straight from bottle or use an ice cube tray or paint pallet to mix colors. You might want to raise the hoop a tiny bit to prevent the dyes puddling. A small piece of cardboard, or pencil placed under the rim to raise the hoop works.
- b. Dip your brush gently into a color. Touch the brush to the fabric about 1/2" from the resist line. The dye will migrate towards the boundary. Paint all areas inside the boundaries. For large areas, work quickly, painting from corner to corner. Always work wet to wet. Don't paint over areas that are already dry.
- c. For the silk hoop paintings, setting the dyes is not necessary.



### Special Techniques

**Salt Technique** A beautiful starburst effect can be achieved by sprinkling salt over the fabric while still wet. Different size salt granules can be used, from table salt to rock salt. The larger the granule, the larger the effect. The salt should be applied while the silk is very wet. The salt crystals soak up the dye as it dries. Don't remove the salt until the silk is completely dry.

### Watercolor Method

This exciting method incorporates the wonderful qualities of the colors as they spread and mix on the silk. Simply paint one color next to another. The dyes will flow and blend. Pre-wet the silk to enhance this effect.



For younger children aged 6-9 (and older!).

We've found that younger children can have great success with this project. Instead of the gutta resist, you can use a Sakura Gelly Roll pen to draw the resist lines. Children can trace their image first with pencil, or draw on the silk with the pen. Draw slowly but don't allow the pen to rest on the silk, this will create a "blob" in ink. Check the back side of the silk hoop to make sure the ink has penetrated. If there are gaps, then turn the silk to the front and fill in the gaps. Children can use the dyes with a bit of practice. We've had good results with using markers instead of dyes. We've used colored Sharpies, and even Dick Blick dual-tip markers. Experiment and find what works best for you.

Below is an example of a 6-year old artist using the Gelly Roll pen.

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