

# ART KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER:

## Skills 1 - Silk Painting

**Silk painting** is the application of paints or dyes directly onto silk fabric using an exciting array of watercolour techniques. The colours are brilliant, vibrant and translucent and merge on the fabric which remains soft to touch. Some of the techniques include resists with gutta and/or wax and special effects using salts. Sometimes the painted fabric is then ironed or steamed to fix the colours.

Phyllis Gordon - American



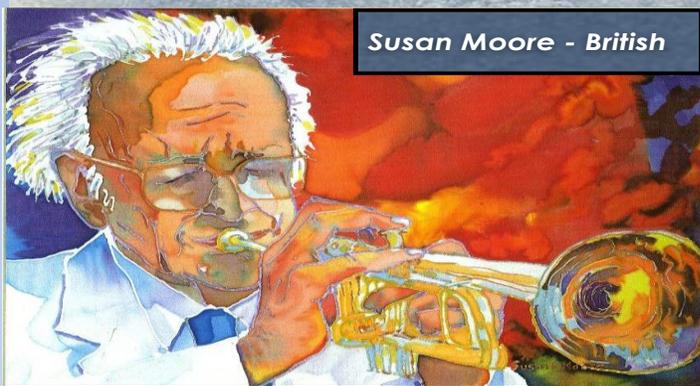
Liza Bozo - Hungarian



Applying silk paints



Tibetan Silk Painting



Susan Moore - British



Joy-Lily Plum Blossoms



Applying salt



Applying gutta

## Starting the Painting Process

You can't really cut silk in a straight line so you need to make a small cut in the silk and then tear sharply until you get the wanted size. Because silk is sensitive to acids, you should always use an acid-free card to mount silk pictures. Also, keep your silk paintings away from direct sunlight as it slowly destroys silk filaments.

When you have all the necessary tools, prepare your work surface.

1. Fill the pipette with gutta.
2. Put the masking tape around the frame.
3. Trace a design on your silk piece by putting the silk onto and secure with masking tape. Use pencil or embroiderer's pen to trace the design onto the silk.
4. Pin silk on the frame before using gutta. stretch it on the frame to be as smooth as possible and use plenty of pins to get the best results.
5. Have plenty of water dishes on hand for mixing and diluting as well as rinsing the brushes between colours.

# ASPIRE

# Textiles – Silk Painting

- **Basic Materials for Silk Painting**
- **Silk Material**- For beginners in silk painting,
  - it is best to start with, silk chiffon.
- **Dyes** -Paints used for working with silk are very
  - concentrated and need to be mixed with water.
- **Gutta**- Gutta separates colours. It is gently squeezed onto
  - the silk to create outlines for the design.
  - It creates lines that separate dye and prevent mixing.
- **Silk Pins**-so it is necessary to use special three-legged silk pins to fix silk to the frame.
- **Brushes**- Any brush can be used to apply dye to silk.
- **Palette**- A regular white plastic palette will be a great choice for mixing dyes.
- **Water Pot**
- **Pencil or embroiderer's pen**- A regular pencil can be
  - used to sketch a design on silk
  - but sometimes it doesn't wash out. a better choice would be a felt-tipped embroiderer's pen, which is also known as an invisible pen
  - as the ink fades when in touch with water.
- **Dropper**- To transfer the dye to the palette, you will need a dropper.
  - It is preferable to use separate droppers for each colour.