

## SILK PAINTING PROCEDURE

1. Sumi Shading: Wet the silk with hake and water or spray bottle and brush with a dry hake so it is evenly damp; not wet. Can blot with paper towels if necessary. Brush sumi on with a hake and immediately smear it with a dry hake for large and background shading. Work fast. Use smaller brushes for smaller areas but work on damp silk and blend it fast . You can tease the ink around with a damp brush.
2. Paint a light thin coat of GOFUN over the entire picture, covering your ink lines and smooth it with a dry hake or fan brush. Let dry completely. To prepare the GOFUN, put a small piece in a saucer and add 1/2 NIKAWA and 1/2 water and mix until smooth with your middle finger. Use a soft hake. Note: You don't have to do this step but your background will be more transparent if you don't.
3. Decide on the background color(s). Mix the colors in dishes with drops of NIKAWA until you have a smooth paste. Many of these pigments are POISONOUS. You're supposed to use your middle finger for blending so you can feel any tiny lumps of pigment; I often use a chopstick and watch closely for undissolved pigment; it will make a very dark color on your painting. I also wash my hands a lot and avoid breathing the dust or ingesting the pigments in any way. If the dish of paint dries out it can be reconstituted with water (cover in water and let it soak, pour off the water, add a drop of NIKAWA and re mix). To color shade the background, again wet the painting and dry hake it. Quickly brush on color with one brush and smear or blend it with another damp brush. Usually it is darker around the main subject and fades out to the edges. Let Dry.
4. Paint the white and light areas with thin GOFUN. Do not paint over the lines. Usually the main subject has a GOFUN undercoat to make it's colors brighter. You can paint the gofun on the back of the light ares. Paint ink on the back of dark areas.
5. Paint colors. Do not paint over your lines. Use 2 brushes; one rather dry with pigment, one damp to blend. You can paint layers of color and develop

shading and depth. You can use more than one color on the brush at a time. Use little water. You can dampen areas and get a bleedy effect. To remove water marks that form, wet the whole picture and dry hake. Be careful around red. It is very bleedy. Continue to add detail.

6. Remove from frame by peeling off the tape. Starting at one corner, carefully loosen the silk from the frame in a diagonal motion. You can dampen the glue edges but don't get a watermark on your painting.

7. Wet or dry mount. When dry mounting, do not spray the silk with water (to relax it) as you do when dry mounting paper. This could cause water spots. If the silk needs flattening, gently iron it (I use a parchment paper between the silk and the iron) or wet it all over and dry it flat. Wet mounting is the same as with paper but a bit thicker glue solution.