

Live Silk Painting

by Lee Zimmerman

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I do live, large-scale painting events. I paint on silk with dyes. The dyes flow through the surface of the silk and are visible on both sides. When I perform, I am on one side of the silk panel and the audience is on the other side. The audience does not see me, but they do see the painting come alive as if by magic. I am unique among silk painters world-wide.

After a performance, the painting is steamed - which takes about 4 hours. This locks the dyes into the fibers, then the whole painting becomes light fast and washable. The result is dyed silk fabric with intense colors and a sensuous feel.

I have performed as part of symphony orchestra concerts, jazz band concerts, modern dance performances, and with various individual musicians. As well as performing around the Midwest, I have performed in Santa Fe, and England. I have created "The Secret Garden" by painting 180sqft for each of the twenty sold-out theatrical performances of the musical. I painted a thirty foot tower of silk while being held aloft using ropes, for a fundraiser. I have been featured in both the International Magazine of Silk Painters and in Surface Design - the premier textile arts association. Check out my website for photos, videos, and more.

Corporate or Fundraising Events

Each performance painting is created specifically for the event. During the event, the live painting focuses audience attention on the stage and for fundraisers the resulting painting can be the first item auctioned. The finished paintings, when sold as part of an auction, have raised from \$1200 to \$5000.