

NORA DANIEL



I have a lifelong love for adornment and design that has a sense of movement and the alchemical power of color combinations. In that most of my art consists of wearable clothing, it is in a different category from that viewed on a wall. Something which is worn must enhance the owner as well as creating a symbiotic relationship rather than existing as a separate identity. It is my intention that my art transmutes to the wearer a state of being that has both sensual pleasure and enhancement that is both physical and emotional. In the same way, the clothing becomes more alive when the owner wears it. This magical occurrence often makes me think that each piece is a talisman in search of an owner.



My process begins with equal parts exploration and inspiration. Ideas may come from any source — a song, images from nature, Japanese woodblock prints, Art Nouveau, and anything viewed from a trip to a museum.

A work starts out as plain, white silk, pre-washed to allow for the best penetration of the dyes. The silk is then stretched over a wooden frame, similar to a canvass. The design is then drawn with a thickened dye and then painted with liquid dyes especially made for a protein based fiber which includes silk. The screen printed images, when used, are also designed by me and printed on the fabrics using thickened dyes mixed with metallic textile pigments creating an exceptionally rich and textured look.

After painting, all pieces then go through a special steam setting process analogous to a ceramic piece being fired in a kiln so that the dyes are chemically bonded with the silk. The fabric may now be cleaned without fear of rinsing out any color. This time and labor intensive process results in colors that are exceptionally rich and luminous.