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interiors.. interiors.. interiors

## interesting pieces of art available in SA

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AS you can see from some of the articles appearing at the moment, I am really trying to show readers what type of interesting pieces of art are available in South Africa to add more interest to your interior.

I have recently seen the work of the brilliant artist Rachel Gitai.

At the moment she is resident in South Africa while her husband does some work here under contract.

She herself used to be a practising interior designer and visual communication teacher, but now spends most her time creating her fascinating pieces of art.

Her creations centre around the use of hand painted silk and hand-made paper. The technique of painting on silk is an old technique used in the Far East, and the methods she uses are the same.

Every art work is created with specific interior settings in mind, and it is for that reason that most of her works are commissioned pieces for a particular setting.

**Not available**

The silk that's used is imported as it is not available in South Africa.

Before painting can commence the silk has to go through soft water baths alternating cold and hot, to stabilise the weave and weave of the fabric.

Still wet, the fabric is tied to a flexible frame to allow for modification in its tension and direction.

The paint is applied using concentrated paint and very small brushes and because of the great speed with which the paint spreads over the silk, a steady and well-practised hand is needed to achieve the desired results.

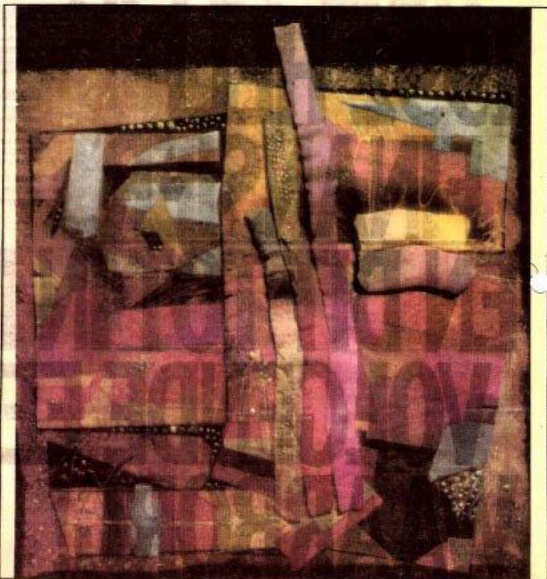
After all painting, applique, etc. has been done, the piece of art has to rest in dry conditions for about two days before it can be steamed to stabilise the final product.

Different pieces of silk are then also used to create these delicate yet dramatic art works.

The framing of such art work is in my mind extremely important, as the wrong type of overbearing framing will destroy the entire effect.

So, as I have said before, although we might sometimes think we are culturally cut off from the world, there is still a lot of talent and good design around our lovely country.

Should you have any queries about the above, or any other interior or interior-related problems, please contact me at my Johannesburg office at (011) 531 6373 or write to me c/o The Pretoria News, Box 439, Pretoria 0001.



Picture: COURTESY OF RACHEL GITAI