

SILK FLAG PAINTING WORKSHOP

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FAQ

What types of workshops do you hold?

We currently hold silk flag painting, but soon hope to include workshops in linen wall hangings and linen flag making, block printing, and velvet cutting.

Why do you call it a Silk Flag Painting Workshop instead of a Silk Banner Making Workshop? What's the difference between a flag and a Banner?

Although most people use the terms “flag” and “banner” interchangeably, this is incorrect. The term “banner” refers to a specific type of flag – a square or rectangular flag used typically to display heraldic arms or saintly images in processions. All banners are flags, but not all flags are banners. We don't call our workshops Silk Banner Making Workshops because you can make any style of flag you want in our workshops and in fact, most workshop participants choose to make Standards/Auncients, and not Banners.

What silk painting method do you use?

Our technique utilizes historically authentic methods with modern convenience. Basically, we prime the silk using a medieval size, and then paint the silk using dye. We don't have any evidence that dye was used for painting in this way in the middle ages, but we prefer it because 1) it weighs the silk down less and paint, and 2) because this way we don't have to paint both sides of the flag, as the dye goes all the way through. We do NOT employ the resist method.

Why do you call it silk “painting” when you use dyes?

Yes, it is true that we use dyes and not silk paints. We say we are “silk painting” because we are using the dyes as paint, as if the silk were a canvas. We're not batch dyeing a piece of cloth in a single color, which is what most people think of when you say you are “dyeing fabric”.

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What are the differences between the Resist Method and the Antifusant Method?

The Resist Method involves outlining your designs on the silk with gutta or resist to form a barrier for the dye. The dye then spreads along the silk, stopping at the resist lines.

The Primer method involves treating the silk with a primer that keeps the dye from spreading. The silk is then painted with dye. The dye does not spread – it only goes where you put it.

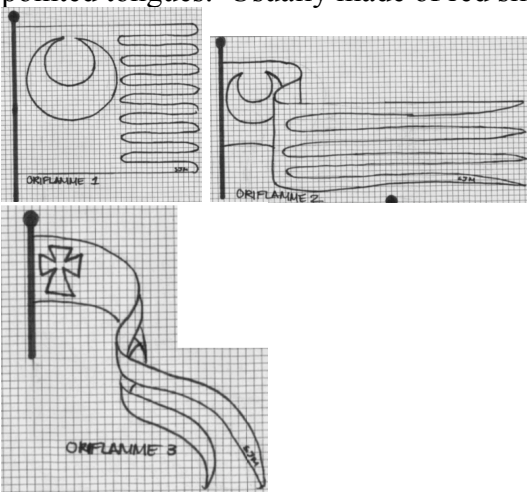
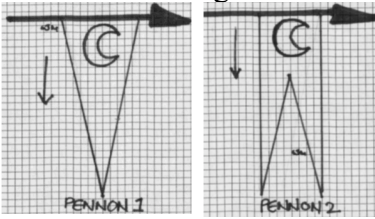
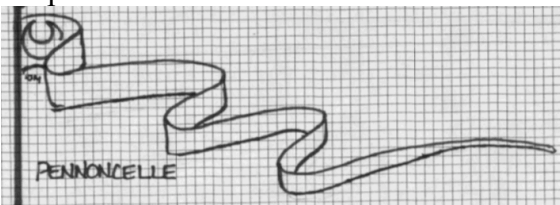
We do not employ the resist method because we have found no documentation to support the use of that method in Europe in the Middle Ages.

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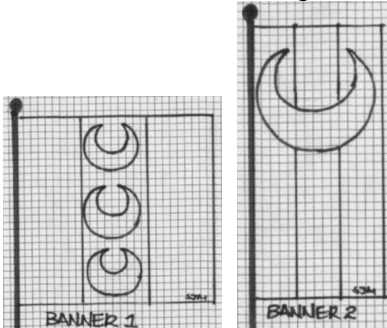
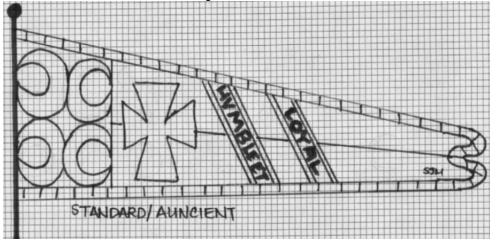
What are some common styles of Medieval flags?

Much of the information readily available on common styles of Medieval flags comes to us from Herbert Norris' *Costume & Fashion, Volume Two – Senlac to Bosworth, 1066-1485*. Below is a quick reference chart on Medieval flags. Note this list is meant as a guideline only and is NOT inclusive of all styles of flags existing around the world in the Middle Ages.

FLAG NAME	DESCRIPTION	USE
Oriflamme	Square or Rectangle, with tail comprised of pointed tongues. Usually made of red silk. 	Carried into battle. Can be associated with Royalty or Saints.
Pennon	Originally a symbol of a knight, usu. depicting a badge or some simple armorial motif. Often fringed. 	Hung from a lance.
Penoncelle	Long and streamer like. Usually tapered at the end and depicting a badge or some simple armorial motif. 	Flown from ship masts

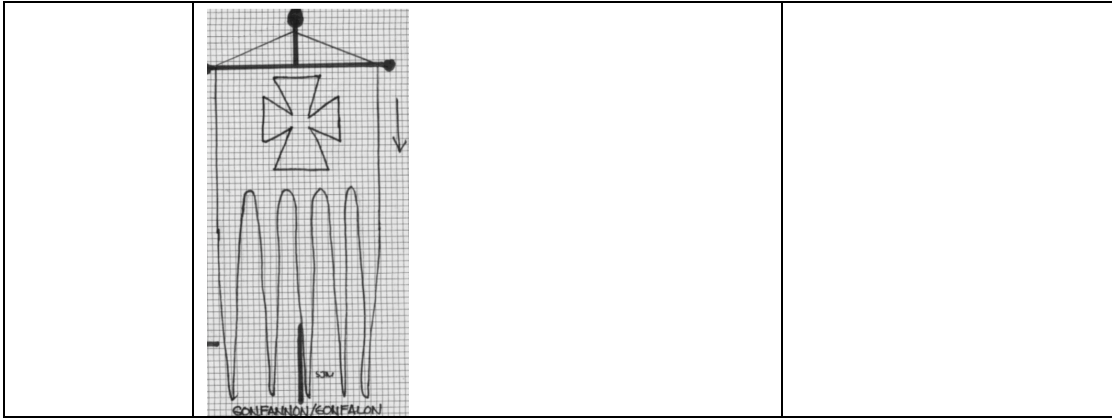
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Banner	<p>Symbol of feudal rights. Square or oblong, displaying arms. Also used to depict saints, biblical scenes, etc. and used in ecclesiastical services, processions, etc.</p> 	<p>Carried from a spear or staff. Used in processions and ceremonies, and carried into battle.</p>
Standard/ Auncient	<p>For most people this is the quintessential Medieval flag. A long triangle in shape, with the tail being swallow-tailed with either pointed or rounded ends. Main fealty at the hoist, followed by primary tinctures of the owner's arms, and the primary charge or owner's badge. Sometimes mottoes were added, as well as small repeating motifs, usu. also from the owner's heraldry.</p> 	<p>Carried into battle, hung from high towers or castle windows.</p>
Guidon	Large Pennon	Hung from a lance or spear.
Gonfannon/ Gonfalon	<p>Rectangular flag, with tail usually having tongues or points, or swallow-tailed and displaying either badge or device.</p>	<p>Mostly used for decoration, ceremonies and processions. Hung from a horizontal cross pole fixed to a pole or spear.</p>

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What size flags can I make in your workshop?

You can make any type and size of flag you want in this workshop, provided it can fit on the frame. We provide some basic guidelines of flag types, but if you have a non-European persona or just want to do something different, you are more than welcome! The important thing is to have fun, learn the process, and like your flags.

The frames are approx. 5' x 10'.

What is the cost of the workshop?

The cost of the workshop is \$95.00 .

How can my group sign up for a workshop?

Contact us at flags@destrier.net.

What are the requirements for a workshop in my area?

In the past we have taught everywhere from Starkhafn (Las Vegas) to Nordwache (Fresno), to Calafia (San Diego). We find that with gas, food, and lodging expenses, it just isn't feasible for us to travel anymore. All workshops are now held at Aston Hall in Darachshire, Caid where we have access to everything necessary. We usually require a minimum number of participants to hold a workshop. This is necessary to buy supplies at the bulk discount rate.

A few people in my area want a workshop, but not enough to hold our own workshop. Can we join a pre-existing workshop?

Yes, if there is room in another workshop, you are more than welcome to join. Contact us for more information.

I live very far away but would like to learn how to paint silk flags.

OR

Destrier Silks

P.O. Box 3384, Camarillo, CA., 93011-3384

www.destrier.net/astonhall

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I can't get to a workshop. Is there another way I can learn to paint silk flags?

You can also view pictures of the process step by step on our website. We can also put together a silk flag making kit for you with all the silk, dyes, dry primer ingredients, and chemicals and handouts necessary to complete a project just as if you attended a workshop. Contact us for more information.

What if I only want to make one Standard or Banner? Can participants share a frame at the workshop?

Yes, you can make one Standard or Banner. If you can find someone else who only wants to make one Standard or Banner as well, you can simply split the cost of the workshop amongst the two of you. If you cannot find someone with whom to share your frame, you will pay a discounted rate for the workshop. As you are only painting one half of the silk on your frame, you can paint your unused silk at later date.

How are workshops structured?

Before the workshop

- You register
- We send you your silk
- You download the instruction manual and read it before the workshop
- You design your flag templates
- You transfer your designs onto your silk

At the workshop

- You sew waste fabric onto the silk
- You attach the silk to a frame
- You prime the silk
- You paint the silk and let it dry completely
- You remove it from the frame
- You remove the waste fabric
- You help us roll your painted silk onto the core of the steamer
- We give you Synthrapol and Milsoft to take home

After the workshop

- We steam the silk in a commercial steamer
- We mail your silk back to you
- You rinse your silk
- You apply the Milsoft to the silk (optional)
- You cut and sew your flags.
- Your flags are ready to fly!

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What types of chemicals do you use for the workshop?

Our primary chemicals are Synthrapol and Milsoft. Synthrapol is a detergent and Milsoft is a fabric softener. We have the Material Safety Data Sheets on them if you'd like more information. The Primer is made of all natural ingredients. We use Jacquard dyes that are vinegar based and nontoxic.

If you are allergic to eggs, please be aware that the primer we use is made of eggs

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What do you provide for the workshop?

We provide:

- Silk
- Sewing machine
- Chemicals – pre-paint and post paint
- Primer
- Dyes
- Frames, staples, tools, maul sticks, silk weights
- Brushes
- Steamer

What do I need to bring to the workshop?

- Your silk with designs already transferred
- Your instructional manual
- Comfortable clothes that you don't mind staining
- Shoes with good support (you will be spending many hours bending over your frame and painting)
- Pain reliever
- Snacks
- Chair

The following are optional but very helpful:

- A seam ripper
- A hair dryer (in case we have to dry the silk faster)

Why do I have to finish the template prior to the workshop?

The template is very important to the flag making process. It is on the template that you want to try out your designs and figure out how you want your flag to look. This means you save a lot of guesswork and helps you avoid costly mistakes once you finally move to the silk.

The template is very time consuming. Finishing it before the workshop accomplishes several things. Firstly, it shortens the workshop time by finishing a crucial step as well as helping participants make design decisions that need to be made prior to the workshop. Secondly, drawing the template can be hard on the back, so completing it before the workshop saves you additional back strain on a day where you will likely be bent over a frame painting for many hours. Lastly, given the time restraints of a one-day workshop, completing the template and transferring the design onto the silk prior to the workshop are absolutely necessary.

Why should I transfer my design to the silk prior to the workshop?

Transferring your design is very time consuming and finishing this step prior to the workshop enables you to take your time. Secondly, transferring the design can be hard on the back, so completing it before the workshop saves you additional back strain on a day where you will likely be bent over a frame painting for many hours.

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Lastly, given the time restraints of a one-day workshop, transferring the design onto the silk prior to the workshop is absolutely necessary.

Can I use a fabric marker when transferring my design onto my silk?

DO NOT USE A FABRIC MARKER WHEN TRANSFERRING YOUR DESIGNS ONTO YOUR SILK. The fabric marker is water-soluble. The primer is water based. When you apply the primer, your designs will completely disappear!

Can I cut out my flags prior to painting?

NO! Do NOT cut your flags out prior to painting. The frames are rectangular and are designed to accommodate your rectangular piece of silk. Cutting the silk is NOT a time saver: If you cut your rectangular silk into triangles, you will have to sew them back together in order to put the silk on the frame.

I have some painted silk I did on my own but I don't have a steamer to set the dye. Can you steam it for me?

Sure! Steaming fees are \$2 per linear foot, plus shipping and handling.