



PHIL BRAKE

ARTIST PROCESS

Brake paints with dye on silk which is a common medium and technique practised for centuries in Asian countries.

He feels the shimmering intensity of the colours obtained involves the struggle to control, restrain and force the dye to do his bidding.

His process begins with first drawing the image onto the raw silk, stretching the silk over a frame. A coloured resist is then applied to enclose and isolate shapes and areas in the painting. This is followed by the application, blending, mixing and thinning the dye on the silk within the enclosed shapes and areas. When dry, the silk is rolled up like a cylinder between sheets of paper and hung in a large pipe over boiling water. The steaming process takes a few hours to permanently set the dye. It is then washed, ironed and stretched over a light board. The finished artwork glows with vibrancy and intense colour unique to the dye on silk process.