Newsletter For The Canadian Fibre Artist

Volume 5 · Issue 1 Spring 2000

Speaking Engagements

I have ambitious plans to see as much of Ontario as possible, possibly venturing even further. Although plans are still tentative, I wish to spread the word of G&S Dye.

There are four types of visit that I can do.

- Mother's Day microwave scarf programs
- Speaking engagements at Guilds or Schools on various textile design topics
- Full workshops at your facilities on dyeing, printing and painting
- Meeting Art Supply and Quilting stores for possible wholesale opportunities.

Mother's & Father's day is coming

An extremely popular program we've been running for schools every year is microwave dyeing. This is an extremely easy process for kids from Grade 2 and up. The success rate is 100%. The current price for us to come out and run a 2-hour workshop is \$7.00/student NET (minimum 20 students) for scarves and \$12.00 for ties. This includes a choice of a long or square silk scarf for each student for Mother's Day and a silk tie for Father's Day. I bring out all the equipment, dyes, scarves, paints and brushes. With the help of the teacher, I'll be able to accommodate 20-30 students in less than 2 hours. We are even willing to travel up to 50Km (from the Toronto Store). For longer distances, we will charge a travel fee of \$0.25/Km. If I do get more than one school in the area participating on the same day, I will split travel fees.

For teachers who are too far away or want to eliminate travel expenses, we

Introduction

It's warm outside! Quite a contrast to when I last published G&S News. There's a lot of catching up for my readers especially for those who subscribe to our print newsletter. The monthly sales and newsletters published in our e-mail publication have kept this group abreast of all that's happening at G&S Dye. Time to get everyone onto the same page.

First, on a personal note, I had a lot of fun snowboarding this past winter. Although it was a shortened season, it was a relaxing time. Perfect for prepping me for my newfound enterprise. I started a web magazine called Moviemac.com in February - quite a contrast to G&S Dye, but there have been many new "computer" skills learned that have started to trickle down to the G&S Dye web site. We've added a simpler menu, a search engine, fancier graphics and for web bound customers, an order form. The early response has been excellent, as everyone is pleased with the new site's look and features. I'm even starting to learn to shoot and edit video. Can an educational video be far off?

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, "fear not"! G&S Dye is still a brick and mortar company with real people, real locations and an easy to contact toll free phone number 1-800-596-0550 (inquisitive minds will notice that it's the same as our Toronto store's number of 416-596-0550).

I have very ambitious plans for this spring and summer. I'm already booked solid for the next two months with speaking engagements, appearances at art stores for demonstrations and I'll even be at Quilt Canada in June. I look forward to finding a lot more places to go this summer.

Enjoy the great weather and until next time,

Dixon



can put together a package for you to run the program yourself. Costs work out to be about \$6-7/student for scarves and \$12.00 for ties

Open invitation to organizations, stores and guilds

If you're part of a group or the coordinator of a quilting, weaving or craft guild, I'd love to hear from you. Currently, I've developed a few speaking topics which can easily be done in one hour, 3 hours or full day affairs with more or less "hands-on" depending on each situation.

Topics

- dyeing to quilt
- using dyes and paints
- silk painting
- marbling
- screen printing

I would even be willing to talk about selling on the Internet or setting up your own web page.

My rates are usually \$50 to start (60-90 minute talk) with a \$0.25/Km travel fee

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Questions and Answers

Question: When should I use a silk dye (Pebeo Soie, Procion H, Dupont) or a silk paint (Dekka, G&S Liquid Colours or Setacolor) when I m painting on silk?

Answer: We will always recommend using a silk dye over a silk paint. The advantages to using a dye on silk are better colours, retained luminosity and feel. This is most important when painting scarves or wearables.

Silk Paints are still bright and have an acceptably soft hand. Using these paints has an advantage when painting large banners or paintings that never requiring washing. Large paintings, like banners, are very cumbersome to steam set and setting with a hand iron is an huge time saver and advantage. For scarves, silk paints are acceptable, but with our steaming service, the inconvenience is minimal.

Question: What s the difference between resist and gutta?

Answer: Our line of resists, guttas and waxes is actually quite confusing. There's just too many choices. Choice isn't bad though. Gutta and resist are interchangeable words. Resist means gutta and visa versa.

G&S Waterbased Resists: This is the most economically priced resist we carry for silk dyes and paints. It comes in clear and black (note: We've discontinued gold, silver, copper & antique). Ideally, these resists work best for silk dyes (Pebeo Soie, Procion H and Dupont). Since they are waxed based, ironing can create halos. Besides price, they are some of the strongest waterbased resists on the market.

	<u>100mL</u>	<u>250mL</u>	<u>1.0 L</u>
Clear	\$5.95	\$9.95	\$29.95
Black	\$12.50	\$19.95	\$59.95

Pebeo Solvent Gutta: This is a solvent based product, which is very strong as a resist. Used by more traditional silk painters, the main advantages of this resist is the ability to paint over lines and very fast drying times. The solvent fumes can be an issue (toxic over long exposures). One does have to be careful when using these line of resists.

	<u>120 mL</u>	<u>250 mL</u>	1 Litre
Clear	\$13.70	\$20.65	\$61.00
Black	\$14.30	\$25.95	
Gold	\$19.00		
Silver	\$19.00		
Thinner		\$14.35	

Pebeo Waterbased Gutta: This line is aimed at the beginner painter. It comes in 12 colours and 20mL tubes that you apply straight out of. You can decant into an applicator bottle for better control. The clear gutta also comes in 250mL. This line works best with iron set silk paints like our Liquid Colours line

20mL Tube (all colours) \$4.25 250mL Clear \$14.80 Pebeo Setacolor Pearlescent Paints: This line can expand on the Pebeo Waterbased Gutta. It's been used in place of Pebeo Waterbased Gutta with good results. If the resists lines aren't holding the dye back, mixing in a bit of the clear Pebeo Waterbased Gutta, fixes the problem. Available in 13 colours and in 45mL, 250mL and 1.0L sizes

	<u>45 mL</u> *	<u>250 mL</u> **	<u>Litre</u> **
Pearl	\$6.50	\$20.70	\$66.80

- * buy 5 jars or more and the price drops to \$5.00 each
- ** buy 10 jars or more and get 10% off

Question: Resist lines always have a big blob at the beginning and end, why?

Answer: Although quite difficult to avoid, I find that not squeezing the bottle before and after touching the silk helps. Also testing flow on a towel removes all air pockets and water before you actually apply the resist.

Question: It appears that I ve applied resist properly but the dye still flows thru the line, why?

Answer: The main reason for this is that the resist or gutta has not penetrated the silk properly. This problem usually occurs on heavier fabrics like silk noil, heavy crepe back satins and duppioni s. If this occurs on lighter fabrics it could mean that the resist is too diluted.

Question: How come my lines are so wide and globby?

Answer: This is an application and applicator problem. G&S Dye carries four types of applicators to make it easier to aply.

When applying resist, make sure bottle is only slightly angled and squeeze lightly. Also do not hover above the silk while resisting. Make sure you are in contact with fabric

Another consideration is the type of tip you use.



C

A, B & C: Applicator Bottle With Differing Metal Tip Plastic bottle with pointed nozzle end. Threaded extended metal tip to screw onto the nozzle end. Available with extra fine, #5,#7 or #9 tips. A & C tips are easier to control than the basic tip B. A&C are also finer.

Bottle with tip (A) \$ 4.50 Basic Bottle w/ Tip (B) \$ 2.50 Extra Fine (C) \$ 9.95

D: Air Pen - \$145.00

Applicator pen that automatically pumps resists. The even pressure of a compressure assures clean starts and stops, consistent lines and alleviates all pain and soreness from squeezing an applicator bottle. Comes with six cartridges.

Our Downtown Studio

I thought it d be a lot of fun this summer to have an open studio at our downtown store. Starting on July 8 and continuing every Saturday (not open during the week) we shall have studio space for you to use and classes for you to learn. Studio space will be split into two uses.

We also invite past students to use the space. This will be great opportunity for those who don t want to invest in equipment or make a mess at their own home. Costs are \$25 + GST for the day. This will include use of equipment, frames, applicators, space, brushes, dyes, waxes and paints. Fabrics, scarves and other paintables will be extra (conveniently purchased from us at the store downstairs). Most scarves, shirts and paintables are around \$4-8. No formal instruction will be provided but someone will be available at all times to answer any questions while you work. We shall also have a sitting area for you to read books as well. Space will be limited from week to week, please call and book at least one week in advance. Please note that space is for individual use and not intended for business production. Hours of operation will be from 9am to 4pm.

There will be a series of half day workshops (about 4 hours each). Each week we shall be introducing a new technique. These are formal classes similar to the one s we run in the winter sessions, but will be a bit briefer and with more emphasis on finishing a product each class.

Every session will include instructions followed by 3 hours of hands on time. This will be perfect for kids (kids under 12 will require parental supervision) and beginners of all ages to get involved and learn in a casual environment.

Each session will be \$40.00 + GST and will include all instructions, supervision and materials. If you wish to take all 8 sessions it will be \$240 (\$80 savings). All sessions start at 10am and end around 3pm.

Products on Sale

Sales Valid Until July 15, 2000

• We've now added copper foil to our list. By selling the foil in bulk we've lowered the everyday price to \$2.95/foot as opposed to the old package price of \$4.95. To sweeten the deal even more, this month, you can get an one-ounce bottle of plexi-glue and one foot of each of the three foils for \$10.00 (+shipping & taxes). The regular price is \$13.80.





• The perfect flat brush. We've have many and would love to move some. So our 2" and 3" flat "hake" style brush is now 30% off. That's \$3.60 and \$5.15 respectively (regularly \$5.15 and \$7.35)

- Last month it was Gold Setacolor (http://www.gsdye.com/Canada/pebeo.html), this month it's Aquamarine Pearl #41 in 250mL size. Regularly \$20.70, now \$16.95 each
- For every one dozen plain white silk scarves purchased, get one free 11"x11" pre resisted silk handkerchief your choice of available designs (Pond, Water Lily, Constellation, Colibri, Teddies Dream, Clown Fish). To see diagrams check out our web site: http://www.gsdye.com/Canada/resisted_items.htm

Silk Painting - July 8 or August 5 Our most popular technique. Students will get to finish sample pieces that can easily be made into hair scrunches, pillows, hand bags, quilt blocks or cut and made into greeting cards along with one small silk scarf. Patterns will be available for ideas.

Free form Scarf dyeing - July 15
A fun time to complete 3 silk scarves.
Using a free form technique, students will get to play with different colour combinations. We shall be using salt, urea and microwave techniques.

Pigment Painting

w/ Pam Woodward - July 22 Learn all sorts of painting techniques using fabric paints. We shall teach painting, stencilling, mono printing and sponging. Students will finish a few samples along with a T-shirt or a canvas carry bag.

Tie Dyeing w/ Ed Mendonca of Whole Hearted Hemp - *July 29* A fun and psychedelic time for all.

Learn all sorts of tying and folding techniques to get the coolest looks. Students will finish 2 T-shirts.

Advanced Silk Painting

w/ Rita Lange of Capagnaro Silk DesignsAugust 12th

Continuing on from the basic Silk Painting course, students will improve their painting skills with new blending techniques and incorporating wax. Students will finish a scarf along with some samples.

Marbling - August 19

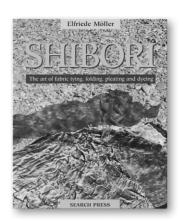
There has been a mini revival in this ancient art form. Marbling is messy but what better way to enjoy this than at our place. Students will finish many samples along with a silk hankie.

Dyeing Fabrics for Quilting - Aug 26 Hands on dyeing courses for quilters. Learn the proper use of dyes for all types of fabrics; washes, blends, solid colours, gradations, and many other techniques to create one-of-a-kind patterns on fabrics and yarns. Students will complete 1 colour wheels and 2 colour gradations.

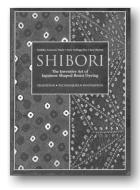
New Products

- We've now added copper foil in addition to our gold and silver foil. We are also selling them in bulk now so it s lowered the everyday price to \$2.95/foot as opposed to the old package price of \$4.95/foot.
- We've re-stocked and added many new Chinese Brocade styles. The best thing is that they are still \$19.95/yd (about \$14.25 US) which is one of the cheapest prices in Canada and the US. Samples are \$5.00 set + \$1 for shipping
- Pentel Hybrid Pens: Pentel has added 6 more colours to their semi-opaque metallic line. In addition to gold and silver, we now carry a copper, metallic green, bronze, metallic purple, metallic green and a metallic pink - \$2.25/each
- Bubble Jet Set: Ink Jet and Bubble Jet ink set for cotton and silk fabric. All you have to do is soak your fabric in this solution. Hang to dry. When dry, iron to freezer paper and feed through your inkjet or bubble jet printer. Colours will set permanently 24 hours after printing. This product is excellent for quilting squares and silk scarves. Sold in 1.0 bottle (for about 3-4 yards fabric) \$30.00.
- FabricFun Pastels & Watercolor Dyes: These are two different products for all natural fabrics. The Pastels are fabric crayons that one applies directly. The Watercolor dyes allow you apply watercolor techniques to fabrics. Both products are set by ironing. Sold in sets.

Pastels (15) \$ 5.95 Pastels (7) \$ 3.95 Watercolor Dyes (12) \$11.00 • Shibori: Art of Japanese Shaped Resist Dyeing is no longer available in hard cover form. In it s place is the soft cover version. The price has dropped to \$77.00 (was \$191.95 in HC). So this is a great opportunity to own the "bible" to Shibori.



• Mickey Lawler's SKY DYES: Quilters and fiber artists know Mickey Lawler's SKYDYES as the finest individually hand-painted cotton fabrics available. Now you can learn Mickey's techniques and create your own unique sky, sea and garden fabrics! \$39.95



 Shibori: The art of fabric dying, folding, pleating and dyeing: A much simpler book than the above one, but still quite informative with great colour photos.



Speaking Engagements

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over 50Km distances from Toronto (calculated one way). Extra speaking or workshop time is calculated at \$25-35/hour depending on if it's a speaking or a hands on workshop. Material fees are extra with workshops.

Similar to the above, G&S Dye is fully prepared to be a guest teacher at your quilting shop.

Consulting

If you own a quilting business or store, we'll even come in and consult to help improve dyeing techniques and to make it more efficient. A recent consultation easily saved my customer hours of frustration. The refresher lesson reassured that she was doing it correctly and she learned how to do it even more quickly.

G&S Dye has been in business for over 13 years now and our no nonsense approach to business and technique may be beneficial to your business.

Meeting Art Supply and Quilting stores for possible wholesale opportunities.

If you are a retail quilting or arts and crafts store and wish to expand your product lines, please feel free to contact us. We offer unique products that you'll find are in demand and of great interest to your customers. We support our products with great packaging, training and competitive pricing. Our products have been proven to be of high quality and of great value over other multi-national brands. Please call me at 1-800-596-0550 for more information and to arrange a meeting.

G&S NeWS is designed to be an informative publication for Canadian textile artists. Published regularly by G&S Dye and Accessories Ltd.



Toronto Outlet 250 Dundas St. W., #8 Toronto, ON M5T 2Z5 Phone: (416) 596-0550 Toll Free: 800-596-0550 Fax: (416) 596-0493

Markham Outlet 300 Steelcase Rd. W., #19 Markham, ON L3R 2W2 Phone:(905) 415-8559 Fax:(905) 415-8560

Store Hours

Monday to Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Toronto only)

dixon@gsdye.com www.gsdye.com