

## YOUR TUTOR

Hi, I'm Anne Mitchell, co-owner of Genesis Creations, along with my husband Alan. I have taught fabric designing for over 46 years; and silk painting for the past 25 years, travelling extensively across Australia to demonstrate and teach these skills.

As a former High School Teacher, with experience in retailing through my family business history, I became involved in teaching fabric painting through an Australian company, then went on to management responsibilities within that company. The love of what I had done for many years, combined with my past experience in this field, led us to start our own family business, with our own unique concepts, in July 1999. I look forward to growing old in this business, in the happiness that I really enjoy what I do ... what we do together!

OUR UNIQUE CONCEPT ... From my foundation of working with other people's products over many years, it has been my pleasure to work closely with an Australian paint manufacturing company to have them produce for us a range of paints and colours that are exclusively ours.

It was my dream to have a colouring product that could achieve the vibrancy and beauty of traditional silk dyes without the complications of steaming them. The dream was also to create a colour that could be used on any fabric or fibre, from silks to synthetics, and across the range of polyester blends for use in 'dyeing' fabrics. With the assistance of our paint technicians, we DID IT! ... called Liquid Radiance, made exclusively for Genesis Creations ${ }^{\text {TM }}$, here in Australia.
To complement these liquid colours, we have a range of thick, creamy paints, also made exclusively for us. These are paints that stay where you put them on the fabric, so are perfect for brush painting and stencilling, as well as printing and stamping techniques. Built on a soft-based cold cure formula, they are fully washable three days after painting, and maintain the soft feel of the fabric. Another 'first in Australia' in fabric designing for Genesis Creations ${ }^{\mathrm{TM}}$.

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## For Genesis Creations ${ }^{\top N}$

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Thank you for joining me for our workshop today. Here are some notes to help you when you take your socks home ...

## Preparation ...

Cover your work table with an old sheet or large towel. Find an ice cream container (or similar) that you can fit BOTH hands in at the same time. Put some plastic (or a plastic covered board) on your table surface to save your cloth from getting damp with colours you are using. Wear rubber gloves for this 'dunking' (dipping) technique.

## Preparing the Colour Mixture...

You'll need 40 to 60 mls of prepared Liquid Radiance colour (ie diluted with water) to colour a pair of medium thickness adult socks, ankle length, less colour if the socks are thinner, and much less for children's socks! In our workshop we have used a dilution of 1 part Liquid Radiance concentrate to approx 15 parts of water and approx 30 mls of prepared colour measured in a laundry scoop.

## Designing the Socks ... METHOD:

1. Wet socks and wring out excess water well (or pat in an old towel).
2. Measure LR colour (concentrate and water) into the ice cream container / bowl.

3. With one sock in each hand, press the socks into the colour. First up, they will absorb all of the colour, so squeeze them out and continue dunking / dipping and squeezing until the socks are evenly coloured. Squeeze out any excess colour if the socks feel 'sloppy'.
4. Place each sock on a bottle, with the bottle standing in the egg carton to simplify the task. Do one sock at a time so they don't flop around while you're working. Look for a smiley face in the sock when you've stretched it onto the bottle - it will be at the end of the bottle.
5. Scrunch the socks along the pole as evenly as you can to form your pattern, securing them at the toe end with a rubber band if necessary. Check the position of the heel - it will be on the opposite side of the sock to the smiley face - just like on a real person! Tuck in the floppy bit of the heel.
6. Sit the bottles in an upturned egg carton until socks are dry. This could take up to 24 hours depending on the weather.
7. Remove socks from bottles when dry.
8. Iron to heat set. Iron for 1 minute with your iron set on a low heat because of the elastane content in the socks. Flatten the sock so the heel is underneath, as it would be when it is on your foot. Iron the top, then flip it over and iron underneath too.


## LIQUID RADIANCE COLOURS WILL NOT COME OUT IN THE WASH. EVEN RED SOCKS WILL NOT LOSE THEIR COLOUR INTO THE WASHING WATER - NO MORE STAINED PINK UNDIES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN WHITE !!!

## MORE THINGS TO TRY WITH SOCKS:

* Use marbles and rubber bands before putting the socks on the poles.
* Try salting socks front and back. Lay flat to dry. Rinse out salt before heat setting.

* I'm sure you'll find some variations of your own as well !!!

Enjoy! ...


