

## Leila Labelle

### A Woman, an Artist, her story

Leila began her studies at Concordia University in Montreal in fashion design, and continued her quest for knowledge by adding sculpture, jewellery design and ceramics to her resume. These variants led to a solid base of many artistic fields from which she developed her own unique style. A long journey in Mexico in 1993 was also a decisive intercultural adventure in her artistic career.

In 2015 after months of reflection and experimentation with natural dyes, inks and various hand-made- papers, the artist devotes her time to develop her collection of kimono's, Geisha's and Chinese women, inspired by "The Silk Road" and faraway lands in a contemporary approach.

In 2016 the artist started studying Chinese calligraphy and the art of Chinese painting with the re-known artist Liankui Zhang and workshops of Organic Colour: Tinting Washi paper with Natural Dyes.

**Medium :** Her many creative experiences can be seen in her paintings, which mix a large variety of techniques and materials, including plaster, sand and beeswax to create unique textures that will soon become her signature.

**Artistic approach:** Leila first love as a child of faraway lands was China. She was fascinated by the culture, Chinese calligraphy, antique textiles and garments. As she grew older she discovered the traditional garment of Japan the "kimono" and the mystic world of a Geisha, it fascinated her. Then came the beauty and colors of India, Africa and "The Silk Road" history.

The texture she creates on her paintings is made to give the illusion of old fresco's, aged by the passage of time. Many coats of glazes are worked in rising intensity in her color choice, sometimes subdued or flamboyant. Leila also uses pigments, inks, graphite, pastels, acrylic paint, hand-made papers, fabrics, beads and coins from around the world that she brings back from some of her travels.

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The artist creates her mixed media art from her live in studio in Montreal, surrounded by objects and textiles from around the world with world music in the background.

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