

*"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step"*

Artist **Rashmi Agarwal**, Founder and Chair of the Qatar based Art Community-MAPS, living in the State of Qatar since 2004, worked as a Community Instructor in Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Qatar taught Silk Painting. She is also Board member of Silk Painters International- SPIN, USA.

Art was her first love. Since childhood, she had been highly engaged in visual arts. Having grown up in an educated background with learned parents, silk painting, to her, represents meditation and very near to god and nature.

She is a true artist with trained and experienced master whose work gets consistently better from one painting to the next to rely on inspiration is to starve. She wants to do a timeless collection. That's got nothing to do with the season, or get defined by trends.

"SHE IS NOT BOUND BY RULES".

On the creation of her latest silk painting, an art she looks at as something spiritual than aesthetic, a passion than a profession. "When colour spreads on the soft silk beautifully, something is coming out of your soul," she explains.

She is also interested in how art communities can use web tools to better promote themselves, and would be committed to building on your existing platform. She analyse every design she make to ensure it is the best it can be. Artists need to have an intuition and eye for design that cannot always be taught and to be a successful artist and designer, fashion has to be your lifestyle. She has always been motivated by the challenge of meeting a tough deadline.

Over the years, Agarwal's proficiency in multiple styles of hand-crafted silk painting has established her as Qatar's foremost silk artist, attested in no small measure by the upper echelons of Qatari society and a long line of art connoisseur expats, all of who have bought her diverse works that traverse nuanced painting and calligraphy with equal ease.

The founder of Qatar-based art community MAPS or Middle-East Art and Silk Painters, didn't really have to exit her comfort zone and switch to an entirely new territory of silk art. But she did, and successfully so.

"The moment I touch my colour-dipped brush on a piece of silk, I can feel that passion rising in me," she says, gently tapping her forearm with her fingers, "The beautiful fluidity of the dye colours is such that you feel like you just can't stop painting. The moment your brush touches silk, the colour flows and dances across the cloth.

It's mesmerising beyond words." Agarwal grew up in Kolkata, racking up degrees in Economics and Finance that had nothing to do with art.

Destiny rewarded her effort. She lives in Doha, the capital city of Qatar. It is the wild beauty of her surroundings that inspires her silk painting. She grew up in India and has been creative since childhood, drawings, paintings and other art activities among others. She enjoys creative adventures, including oil painting and stained glass art, a display artist, an interior designer, a copy writer, and a song writer. Painting on silk, colour and detail, are her passions. She really enjoys the freedom of the silk colours as it stimulates her imagination and offers so many exciting possibilities.

She believes each has something precious and special to give to all of us and each painting is a tribute to these amazing creatures, where she strive to capture their essence. Many of the paintings she paints have a spiritual quality with the power to heal hearts and spirits, if one is open to their message.

It is adorable to see Rashmi at work; each stroke is the baton of a master conductor, harmonizing every aspect of her designs, patterns, textures, and colours, are all united to create a masterpiece. She adds: "With my art, I am giving a part of me."

**Exhibitions: -**

World Art Dubai, 2017-Dubai

Open Art Fair Exhibition, Katara, Qatar

2nd Open art fair exhibition, Katara, Qatar

Silk Spring Exhibition, Grand Hyatt, Qatar

"The Horizon"- Grand Hyatt, Qatar

Indian fine art centres- India

Global Art Centre, India

Alkhor Community-Qatar;

Pech-Kucha Presentation, Qatar

Souq Waqif Art Centre- Doha, Qatar;

"Colours of DESERT" series 1, 2 & 3 in Katara, Qatar;

ICAC Art Gallery, Mumbai-India

Gatlinburg, TN, SPIN, USA Exhibition- 2016

**Artist Statement:** "Think big, think fast, think ahead. Ideas are no one's monopoly. Our dreams have to be bigger, our ambition higher, our commitment deeper and our efforts greater".

Her complete on-line galleries can be viewed on her website at:

F: [www.facebook.com/rashmisilkgallery](https://www.facebook.com/rashmisilkgallery)

Web: [www.oystersilkart.com](http://www.oystersilkart.com)

Instagram: @finesilkart