



At our **October 6, 2014** monthly meeting, we enjoyed having **Peggy J. Wertheim**, a wearable surface design artist. She specializes in batik, silk dyeing with Shibori, silk painting and marbleizing techniques. The path which lead her to do what she loves, started while working in her Aunt and Uncle's craft store located in what was Southgate Shopping Center back in the day. She picked up a book on batik and never looked back! She took her wearable art business to 20 - 25 shows a year, up and down the east coast from Massachusetts, Michigan and Florida, before settling back in Ohio. Peggy continues to do a lot of teaching throughout the area and was very excited about doing this demo for Euclid Art.



She told us that there are hundreds of types of silk. Silk always starts out white, is very, very strong and can be thrown in the washing machine to clean it! She encouraged us to touch all her silk scarves. She shared this little gem with us....how do you tell if the fabric is real silk versus a silk blend? Take a sample piece of 'silk' fabric, light it. If it smells like burning cardboard or paper and turns to a gray ash, it's a natural silk fiber. If it turns into a ball and smells like chemicals, it's not pure silk.



The art of Batik started in Indonesia. It is the art of decorating fabric with hot wax and dyes to get color. Peggy prefers to use two kinds of wax, beeswax and paraffin, mixed together. The more color in the batik, the more beeswax was used. She uses a canting tool and bamboo brushes to apply the wax. She builds up colors carefully to avoid getting a muddy result. She's old school, as she still uses her color wheel! To remove the wax, she prefers dry heat to steam heat...her tip "layer newspaper, white paper, the Batik, white paper, newspaper and press with a hot iron and then repeat".



Peggy also talked about Arashi Shibori, the Japanese art form of wringing and twisting. She demonstrated how silk is wrapped around a wide diameter tube or pole with threads before it is dyed. Lastly, Peggy talked about silk painting using a resist called 'gutta', which looks like thin icing, outlining an area to stop the color and create a design. She uses foam or Chinese watercolor brushes to apply heat or steam set paints. But, she say "never mix the two paints!" She gets all her supplies from the Dharma Trading Company. The members were very interested in her talk, displays and demonstration and asked her a lot of questions.

Many thanks to Martha Germano for delivering refreshments to the meeting—PIZZA and PUFFS (cream puff's that is). Everyone devoured the Pizza and said it was the best they've ever had. We all wanted to know where she got it!. *The pizza came from PIZZABOOYAH! in Willoughby, 37111 Euclid Ave. Willoughby, (across from and just east of Lowes) 440-975-0317. Their website is www.pizzabooyah.com*

