

Framing the Silk Weave Patterns

Our collection of unique nineteenth century French silk weave patterns are available housed in specially designed, hand finished, double-sided box frames.

We used a poplar wood moulding, a sustainable timber with a close grain well suited for paint finishes. The profile is a flat 15 x 32mm, the moulding is mitred, routered then joined using special hard plastic ribbed wedges with an ultra-strong expanding wood adhesive. We also cross-pin the corners for additional strength, the frames are then hand sanded.

Next the frames are painted using emulsion from the extensive Farrow & Ball range. We carefully choose the colour to complement each individual design. Each silk weave design is then float mounted onto conservation grade mount board using acid free paper loops. The colour of the individual board was chosen to be compatible to both the pattern and the painted frame. The mounting boards were window cut allowing the handwritten instructions and, in many cases, the date of each pattern to be seen on the reverse of the frame. The border within the box frames is 50mm around the silk design, this enables the frame to be displayed in either a landscape or portrait format.

The frames are fitted with 15mm deep hand cut spacers. These serve to keep the glass away from the work and they utilise the same board as the mount, so the frames interior is visually uniform in colour. The glass used on the front of the frames is conservation grade. This glass has a low iron content which reduces the 'colour shift' effect which occurs with regular float glass. Most importantly it also has a 99% ultraviolet filter which helps preserve the vibrant gouache colours and the paper itself. The reverse of the frame is also glazed, since it will not be exposed to light, we used regular 2mm float glass. The finished frame comes ready to hang with D-rings and strong nylon cord, which will not corrode over time as is the case with picture wire.

After care

Even though the framed patterns have been fitted with conservation glass we strongly recommended that they should not hung in areas of direct sunlight or other areas with strong light sources such as spotlights. Remember all light damages paper, including artificial light. We also suggest avoiding wall space over radiators or other direct heat sources as this will result in the wood expanding which may cause the corners to crack.

Please note - this advice also applies to any framed artwork.

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