

Artist Paula Joyce paints one-of-a-kind chuppot to be used as family heirlooms

Photos: Courtesy of Paula Joyce

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By Rachel Gross

Paula Joyce has a passion for abstract art, especially when it comes to weddings. The artist has now delved into the world of chuppah painting to create lasting heirlooms for couples.

Joyce created her first chuppah for a trip to Israel with Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas five years ago. Although it was only used in an art exhibit, it provided an example of what a unique chuppah can look like.

She uses specially ordered paints and silk to design chuppot that match wedding themes and stained glass windows — whatever the couple wants. Her goal is to illuminate the joy of a wedding ceremony.

“We have such beautiful traditions,” she said. “To participate in those and add our own element within the bounds of what’s appropriate is lovely. That’s what Judaism is all about — joy and happiness. I want to help enhance that joy, connection with God, our history, meaningful rituals and life as a people.”

Joyce made a chuppah for her daughter’s wedding where she used the ketubah as the theme. She painted it to complement the ketubah and made silk centerpieces to match, which were given as thank you gifts for the wedding party.

The chuppot, which can either be a piece of fabric over the top or cover the four poles, can also be used for various Jewish life cycle events, like bnai mitzvot, britot or baby namings.



Local artist Paula Joyce, seen here wearing one of her hand painted shawls, creates abstract chuppot that can later be used for other life cycle events.



Joyce painted this chuppah, aptly called the “Tree of Life,” which was shown in Israel and art studios in Dallas.

“This is something that can be used within the family,” she said. “It would be nice for people to say ‘this was used at my bris and now I’m getting married under it.’ The chuppah binds a couple together, and is a symbol of the life they are going to create. It’s special for them to start on that path and then use the chuppah for other family events.”

Joyce has been painting for 40 years. She always wanted to paint as a child, but became discouraged when she was told she didn’t have talent. After taking an oil painting class at her local JCC, she was hooked.

She started to paint on silk in 1998. She said she enjoys silk colors because they flows better and allows paintings to be more abstract.

In addition to chuppot, Joyce paints tallitot, kippot, challah covers, scarves, wraps, dresses and silk fine art pieces. She said it gives her pride to design meaningful art that people will keep forever.

“When I work with a piece, whether it’s a chuppah, a tallit, or a painting, I think about what the person needs,” she said. “It gives me joy to do this and I can capture the essence of who someone is.”

Not only is Joyce an accomplished artist, she is a life coach who helps people unleash their creative intelligence and use it to develop the work, relationships and health that they want. It’s these skills that help spark her creativity.

Joyce hopes to bring happiness to all and highlight the joy of marriage.

“I want to be able to touch people’s souls and hearts and get below the surface,” she said. “There is a spiritual element involved with a chuppah and I want to capture that. I’d love to make people’s weddings everything they want them to be, and bring blessings to their wedding day and marriage.”

Former Dallasite Miriam Friedman hired Joyce to paint kippot for her wedding. Her family still uses them each year for Passover and Rosh Hashanah.

Friedman said having these kippot made her wedding day more special.

“They were a wonderful asset to our ceremony and looked beautiful,” she said. “They are pieces of art that I can have forever and it was meaningful. Paula is talented and can do anything a client asks.”

For more information, call Joyce at 972-788-2393, e-mail her at paulajoyce@sbcglobal.net, or visit www.paulajoycedesigns.com.

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