



Bespoke Silk Flags



KINETIKA
DESIGN THAT MOVES



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Kinetika is an internationally renowned arts company, specialising in creating large-scale hand-painted silks. For over 25 years Kinetika has been combining world-class design with community projects to produce spectacular outdoor commissions that engage diverse audiences.

Founded by artistic director Ali Pretty in 1997 and inspired by her training in

carnival arts in Trinidad and India, Kinetika now has an unrivalled reputation for working with local communities on projects that change the way people feel about where they live. Kinetika has worked across the globe, from The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant to local community walks in Essex to high streets and city squares across the UK, out to the Great Wall of China, Ethiopia, Chile and India.



Walking, talking and making

Over the last ten years we have developed a walking, talking and making model through our annual T100 Festival. This has been replicated and adapted nationally and internationally.



It follows a simple but incredibly engaging process. We invite communities to design and devise their own walks, and with them create illustrated hand-painted silk flags that reflect local stories. The model changes attitudes to walking, allows individuals to talk to people they wouldn't normally meet and discover new stories about their local area. We encourage groups to develop their own ideas and then showcase them to a wider audience. Our framework is tried and tested, connecting communities and helping people feel proud of the place in which they live, work or visit.



T100 Festival

An annual outdoor arts festival in Thurrock, Essex, UK, featuring 100 small flags created by local people to illustrate tales about the area.

T100festival.co.uk



Chelmsford 100

Chelmsford 100 was directly inspired by the success of the T100 Festival, creating a new celebration of community, creativity, environment and volunteering centred around the creation of 100 hand-painted silk flags illustrating local stories, which were then displayed in a walking festival launched in 2022.



*"The flags were a true highlight on Stevenage Day, were much commented on and enjoyed by so many. They looked **SENSATIONAL**, and they really work so brilliantly as part of a carnival parade. The height they create...the colours they sing...and their movement in the wind... not to mention a true and genuine sense of pride and belonging that you feel when you take hold of a flag you've made, that in some way represents you."*

*John Prebble,
Co-director, Junction 7 Creatives*

Silk River

20x6m silk scrolls were created in 2017 to mark the UK/India year of culture. Silk River explored the relationship between London and Kolkata through artistic exchange between ten communities along the River Thames and the River Hooghly in West Bengal.

"It was the flags that instantly grabbed me. The colour and detail, and the way they sprang into life with a breeze and some sunshine behind them. What soon became apparent was that bearing a seven-metre pole with a dazzlingly colourful silk banner attached had something of a religious pilgrimage about it."

Kevin Rushby, Guardian journalist





Murshidabad Silk

At Kinetika, we use Murshidabad Silk. This silk is a highly durable, specially hand-woven silk made by 14 families from Dangapara, Murshidabad, West Bengal. They are the last generation who have the skills to hand-weave this silk. In the UK, proceeds of sales support these families in India. This silk has an amazing texture and when dyed or painted, Murshidabad Silk, due to its triple strand weave, holds the bright colours.





Work with the silk experts

The designers at Kinetika are experienced at working with clients to realise their own bespoke design, taking it from concept to completion. Guidance can be provided on what to expect with the hand dyed process, what looks good at scale and concept/ colour sketches can be created as a starting point. A typical flag-making project would work with ten schools or groups to design and paint ten new silk flags, which will include two to three days of artist time per flag.



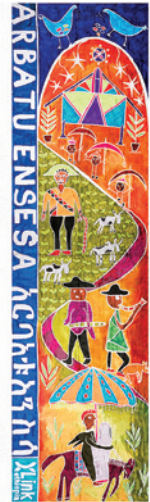


Teatro Container

In 2018, Kinetika worked with the British Council and Teatro Container in Chile to create a series of silk flags representing Valparaíso, Chile's history and the relationship between the town and the port.

Gondar, Ethiopia

Marking their 20-year anniversary, Link Ethiopia invited Kinetika to create ten flags with school children in Ethiopia and the UK. The project examined ideas of local identity and pride of place as well as teaching design and making.



Beach of Dreams

An epic journey walking 500 miles along the east coast of England over 35 days with 500 naturally-dyed silk pennants which illustrate the coastal landscape and its environment.



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**Contact the Kinetika team
to discuss your project**

We welcome enquiries for new commissions
of any size and encourage discussions
early in a project timeline.

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