

The Use of Marbling art in Textile Print Design

Tekstil Baskı Tasarımında Ebru Sanatının Kullanımı

ABSTRACT

Marbling art plays a crucial role in modern fashion and textile design by combining traditional craftsmanship, sustainability, and digital innovation. As it integrates with contemporary trends, Marbling remains a timeless and valuable artistic expression that enhances fashion and textile creations. This study believes that applying Marbling art to silk fabric creates an extraordinary fusion of aesthetics and technique. Silk, with its smooth texture and excellent absorbency, is one of the best fabrics for reflecting the fluidity and depth of Marbling art patterns beautifully. Marbling art on silk represents a unique intersection of art, fashion, and traditional craftsmanship. Although it comes with some technical challenges. As a result of this study, it is thought that printing study on silk fabric with marbling art have an important potential in the fashion and sustainable textile areas.

Keywords: Marbling art, Textile printing, Silk fabric.

ÖZET

Ebru sanatı, moda ve tekstil endüstrisinde büyük bir estetik ve kültürel değer taşıyan bir sanattır. Benzersiz tasarımlar, sürdürülebilir moda anlayışı ve dijitalleşme ile uyumu, bu sanatın tekstil sektöründe daha da yaygınlaşmasını sağlamaktadır. Geleneksel sanatı modern dünya ile buluşturan ebru, gelecekte de yenilikçi ve özgün tasarımların temel taşlarından biri olmaya devam edecektir. Bu çalışma Ebru sanatının ipek kumaş üzerinde uygulanması, hem estetik hem de teknik açıdan olağanüstü bir sanat formu oluşturuyor. İpek, dokusunun pürüzsüzlüğü ve boyayı emme özelliği sayesinde ebru sanatının akıcılığını ve derinliğini mükemmel bir şekilde yansıtabilecek en uygun kumaşlardan biridir. Ebru sanatının ipek kumaş üzerinde uygulanması, sanat, moda ve geleneksel el işçiliğinin birleştiği özel bir alandır. Teknik olarak bazı zorluklar içerse de, sonuçları son derece etkileyici ve değerli olabilir. Çalışma sonucunda ipek üzerine ebru sanatıyla yapılan baskı çalışmasının moda ve sürdürülebilir tekstil alanlarında önemli bir potansiyele sahip olduğu düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ebru sanatı, Tekstil baskı, İpek kumaş.

INTRODUCTION

Marbling art is a traditional Turkish decorative art created by forming patterns on the surface of the water with specially prepared paints and then transferring them onto paper. Although its exact origins are uncertain, it is believed to have developed in Central Asia, Iran, and the Ottoman Empire before reaching its present form. One of the strongest theories about the origin of Marbling art suggests that it was born in Central Asia during the 9th and 10th centuries. The word Marbling art is thought to derive from the Persian word "ābrī" (meaning watery or resembling water) or "ebru" (meaning cloud-like). This art was particularly practiced in regions such as Turkestan and Bukhara, from where it later spread to Iran.

Marbling art was known as ebru in Iran, where it was used as a paper decoration technique. By the 15th century, it is believed to have traveled through Iran and India to the Ottoman lands. The Ottomans not only adopted Marbling art but also refined and developed it, adding new techniques and elevating it to an advanced art form. During the Ottoman period, Marbling art flourished, particularly in Istanbul. From the 16th century onwards, Marbling art became an essential part of calligraphy, serving as a decorative background for illuminated manuscripts and official documents (Sobacı, 2001).

Several notable masters contributed to the evolution of Marbling art during this time, including:

Şeyh Sadık Efendi (17th century): One of the earliest known Ottoman Marbling art artists.

Hatip Mehmet Efendi (18th century): He developed a special technique known as "Hatip Ebru" (Preacher's Ebru).

Necmeddin Okyay (20th century): A key figure in preserving and modernizing Ottoman Marbling art techniques.

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How to Cite This Article

Bağcı, H. (2025). "The Use of Marbling art in Textile Print Design" International Social Sciences Studies Journal, (e-ISSN:2587-1587) Vol:11, Issue:4; pp:618-622. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15282803>

Arrival: 21 January 2025

Published: 28 April 2025

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Today, Marbling art is recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (since 2014). While traditional methods are still preserved, modern artists have expanded the use of Marbling art beyond paper to materials such as ceramics, textiles, and glass. Marbling art, originating from Central Asia and reaching its peak during the Ottoman Empire, remains a highly regarded Turkish traditional art form. With its unique marbling technique and vibrant designs, it continues to captivate artists and art lovers worldwide (Bulut, 2015).

The Role and Importance of Marbling art Today

Although Marbling art is a traditional Turkish decorative art, it has gained a significant place in the modern art world, fashion industry, textile design, and digital art. It continues to evolve with new techniques and attracts great interest from both art enthusiasts and academics.

Cultural and Artistic Value

Marbling art was recognized as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage" by UNESCO in 2014, securing its place among traditional arts that need to be preserved globally. This recognition has contributed to its increased visibility and appreciation worldwide (Begiç, 2015).

Today, Marbling art is exhibited in art festivals, galleries, and museums, with contemporary artists integrating innovative techniques. Modern artists blend Marbling art with abstract art, modern illustrations, and digital art, offering fresh perspectives on this ancient technique.

Use in the Fashion and Textile Industry

Marbling art plays a significant role in textile print design. Traditional Marbling art patterns are applied to fabrics such as silk, cotton, and synthetic textiles, creating unique fashion designs.

Renowned fashion brands incorporate Marbling art patterns into their collections to create natural and aesthetic designs. With the rise of sustainable fashion, handmade and natural artistic techniques like Marbling art have gained popularity. Marbling art is particularly used in handmade scarves, dresses, handbags, and accessories, making each piece unique and visually striking (Tozun, 2015).

Digital Technologies and Marbling art

With technological advancements, Marbling art has also found its place in the digital world. Using digital design software, Marbling art patterns are:

Applied to digital illustrations, Used in web design, posters, and logo creations, Integrated as background visuals for mobile applications and animations. Marbling art has also gained popularity in Non-Fungible Token (NFT) art and digital collectibles, attracting artists and collectors worldwide.

Education and Workshop Activities

Marbling art is taught in art schools and workshops worldwide. It is also widely used in art therapy, meditation, and personal development programs, as working with water-based patterns provides a relaxing and meditative experience. Following the pandemic, interest in Marbling art has increased, and many people have adopted it as a hobby and a form of therapy.

The Use and Importance of Marbling Art in the Fashion and Textile Industry

Marbling art, traditionally created by forming patterns on water and transferring them to paper, has gained significant importance in the fashion and textile industry. Its natural, unique, and handcrafted qualities make it highly valuable in sustainable fashion, luxury designs, and digital textile printing. Originally used on paper, Marbling art can now be applied to fabrics such as silk, cotton, linen, polyester, and synthetic textiles. This allows fashion designers and textile manufacturers to incorporate Marbling art patterns into various products (Darçın, 2018):

Apparel Design: Dresses, tunics, shirts, skirts, and scarves frequently feature Marbling art patterns.

Accessories: Handbags, shoes, hats, and jewelry cases utilize Marbling art prints for a distinctive look.

Home Textiles: Pillow covers, curtains, bedspreads, and tablecloths incorporate Marbling art for unique decorative elements.

Casual and Sportswear: Marbling art patterns are also seen in athleisure and streetwear, adding an artistic touch to everyday fashion.

Marbling art offers numerous benefits and aesthetic value in the textile sector (Koyuncu, 2005):

Each Marbling art pattern is one-of-a-kind, making it impossible to replicate the exact same design. This feature is particularly attractive to luxury fashion brands and haute couture designers, as they seek exclusive, handcrafted, and artistic designs that set their collections apart. With the rise of sustainable and eco-conscious fashion, Marbling art aligns perfectly with environmentally friendly production methods:

Minimizes chemical usage (can be created with natural pigments).

Compatible with recycled fabrics.

Handmade techniques reduce carbon footprint.

As the fashion industry moves toward slow fashion and ethical production, Marbling art textiles gain more prominence. Marbling art carries a rich history dating back to the Ottoman Empire, making it a cultural bridge between traditional craftsmanship and contemporary fashion. Many designers incorporate historical motifs with modern silhouettes, creating a fusion of heritage and innovation. With advancements in digital design and NFT-based fashion, Marbling art has expanded beyond traditional printing:

Digital versions of Marbling art designs can be applied to textile printing. Marbling art NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) allow designers to sell exclusive digital patterns. Metaverse fashion brands use Marbling art-based prints for virtual clothing and accessories (Ozkul, 2016).

This integration opens new opportunities for artists and designers to digitize handcrafted Marbling art patterns and incorporate them into futuristic fashion concepts. Many international fashion houses and independent designers have adopted Marbling -inspired patterns in their collections. The fluid, organic nature of Marbling art complements high-fashion aesthetics, often appearing in limited-edition collections.

In Turkey, several textile manufacturers specialize in Marbling art printing on fabrics, exporting these handcrafted and digitally enhanced designs to global markets. The presence of Marbling art in fashion is expected to grow due to several evolving trends:

Personalized fashion: Consumers increasingly seek custom, one-of-a-kind prints, making Marbling art a perfect fit.

Sustainable textile production: The demand for eco-friendly dyeing and printing techniques is on the rise.

Digital and virtual fashion: The use of Marbling art in 3D fashion design, NFT fashion, and virtual clothing collections continues to expand.

EXPERIMENTAL

Material

Here are the essential materials that should be present in the water bath for marbling art:

Thickened Water (Carrageenan or Tragacanth Gum): A thickening agent (such as carrageenan or tragacanth gum) is added to the water to help the paints float on the surface.

Marbling Paints: Special paints made from natural pigments that can spread and float on the surface of the water.

Ox Gall (Bovine Gall): Used to adjust the consistency of the paints, allowing them to spread properly on the water's surface.

Brushes: Typically made of horsehair and rose branches, these brushes are used to sprinkle the paint onto the water.

Combs and Awls (Needles): Metal-tipped awls (needles) and special combs are used to create intricate patterns in the floating paint.

Water Basin (Marbling Tray): A shallow metal or plastic tray where the paints are spread and patterns are formed.

Paper or Silk Fabric: Special marbling paper or silk fabric is used to transfer the floating design onto a surface.

These materials are essential for preparing the water bath correctly and ensuring successful pattern transfer in marbling art.

METHOD

Marbling art, or marbling art, is a traditional Turkish decorative art that involves creating patterns on the surface of specially prepared water and transferring them onto paper or silk fabric. Here's a step-by-step guide on how it's done:

By following these steps, beautiful and unique marbling designs can be created, making each piece a one-of-a-kind artwork!

The water bath is thickened with tragacanth gum or carrageenan to help the paints float on the surface. This mixture prevents the paints from sinking and allows patterns to be formed. Marbling paints are made from natural pigments and mixed with water. Ox gall (bovine gall) is added to the paints to help them spread and form patterns on the surface of the water. Special horsehair brushes are used to sprinkle the paints onto the surface of the water. The first color forms circular shapes, and additional colors are added to create a layered effect. Awls (thin metal rods) and combs are used to manipulate the paints and create intricate designs. Traditional marbling patterns include Battal (stone), combed, tide, shawl, Hatip, and floral marbling. Once the desired pattern is achieved, silk fabric is carefully laid on the water's surface (Figure 1a). The design is absorbed by the fabric or fabric instantly (Figure 1b-c). The fabric is then carefully lifted off and placed aside for drying (Figure 1d-e-f).

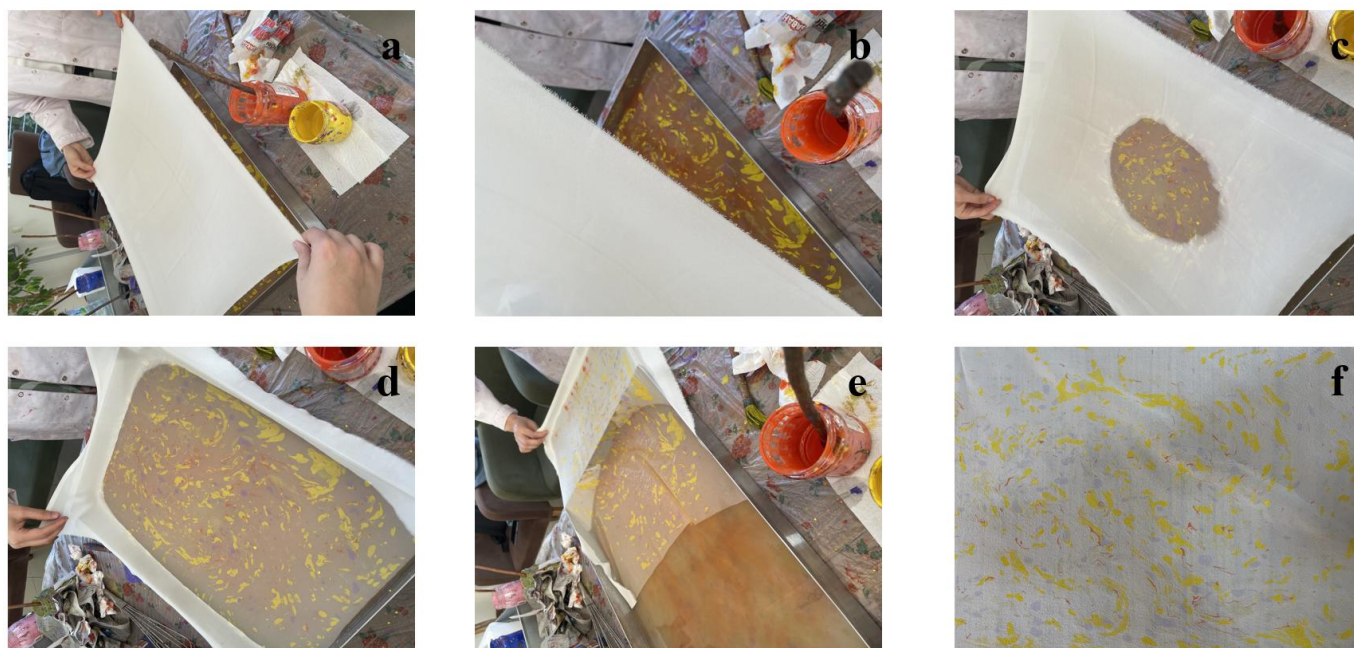


Figure 1. Transferring the pattern from the painted water bath onto the silk fabric for marbling art

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Marbling art on silk fabric is a refined and aesthetically unique adaptation of traditional marbling. The texture and surface of silk provide a distinct depth and elegance to the patterns created on water. Silk, being lightweight and glossy, reflects marbling patterns in a vibrant and striking way. Compared to paper marbling, the patterns on silk appear softer and more fluid (Figure 1c-d). It offers a unique artistic expression in fashion, accessories, and decorative textiles. Overall, marbling art on silk fabric holds a special place in both traditional and modern textile design. While the process requires skill and patience, the final results are stunning and artistically valuable (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Silk fabric prepared for marbling art

CONCLUSION

From perspective of this study, the use of Marbling art in textile design presents a great opportunity both artistically and commercially. This art:

- ✓ Brings a unique and artistic touch to fashion,
- ✓ Aligns with sustainable textile practices,
- ✓ Adapts cultural heritage to the modern world,
- ✓ Creates new opportunities in the digital sphere,
- ✓ Provides a competitive advantage in the global market.

If applied correctly, textile designs produced with Marbling art can play a significant role in the future of fashion. Blending a traditional art form with the modern world will be an innovation that keeps it alive and carries it into the future. Both paper and silk offer unique aesthetic qualities in marbling art. In marbling art (Ebru), the process of transferring patterns from the water bath differs depending on whether the surface is paper or silk fabric. Each material reacts differently to the paint, requiring specific techniques and adjustments. Paper provides sharp and well-defined patterns, making it ideal for traditional artwork, while silk gives a more organic and fluid look, perfect for fashion and textile applications. However, transferring marbling onto silk requires additional technical expertise and fixation processes to ensure the design remains durable and vibrant over time.

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