

MARIETTA PATRICIA LEIS

Luminers

Luminers are paintings made with Japanese inks on Japanese washi papers. I began to work with this medium during an artist residency by the Spanish Mediterranean Sea. Translucent light, blue skies and sea with the ever-changing moods of the days inspired me to try this medium.

An earlier experience I had studying a Japanese calligraphy master draw with agile, graceful and confident strokes made me eager to use Japanese inks. I wanted to access the memory of the master's expertise to guide my own hand.

The inks delighted me as they soaked into the papers, dying their colors deep into the fibers. The colors spread in magical ways transfusing with the paper. The process allows only a short window of time to work and obtain the freshness of the composition and colors. I sometimes used vellum paper to enhance the translucency.

Continuing this work in New Mexico, I designed frames for the paintings that allow light to penetrate behind and through the papers like nature itself. *Luminers* can be displayed as a single work or as an installation consisting of several framed paper pieces in various configurations.