

Daniel Jean-Baptiste



P O R T F O L I O



Triggers, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste
Hand-painted silk, 30 x 40 inches

PREVIOUS PAGE: *Reef Fish*, by
Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-
painted silk, 25 x 35 inches

Lotus Garden, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste
Hand-painted silk, 25 x 20 inches

Jean-Baptiste

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All images by Daniel Jean-Baptiste

Born on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, self-taught artist Daniel Jean-Baptiste, captures on sumptuous silk the brilliant, vivid colors of the vibrant marine life that thrives in the sea around his native homeland. In an interview with the artist, we find out more about the man, his art and his unique perspective and experience with the underwater world.

X-RAY MAG: Tell us about yourself and how you came to create your marine themes on silk.

DJB: I am a natural self taught artist whose whole process of creating was something that arrived in my being when I was nine years old. I experimented in water colour while growing up in a small fishing village in St. Lucia. My introduction into the silk medium that I use today happened in 1982 when I got hired as an artist for a Canadian display company—Display Arts of Toronto—to produce large format hand-painted silk banners

for shopping centre interior decorations. Today, the work that I produce as a fine artist is more refined and very different compared to my early commercial work.

X-RAY MAG: When you create your art works, what drives your artistic vision?

DJB: I have a deep passion to create work that has never existed before. It has to be a creation that has its origins from my life. I am only interested in depicting the world as I experience it—just all beautiful and vibrant. I want the viewer to see paradise everywhere.



X-RAY MAG: What about the sea and its creatures inspires you?

DJB: I was very lucky to have grown up in a small fishing village. I spent every free moment on the old wooden jetty fishing and diving with all these

earthly wonders. I was so addicted to the ocean that I always tried to avoid school in order to enjoy life. My work reflects that time in my life when I was so excited to discover new fish, scary crabs and to swim in what looked like liquid diamonds. The effect of light on



Under the Bahamian Sea, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 60 x 50 inches



Caribbean Gold, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 30 x 40 inches

the sea floor and on the skins of fish has always been something that has fascinated me.

X-RAY MAG: Are you a scuba diver or do you snorkel?

I have never scuba dived, but I am a snorkelling expert; I can dive down to 50 feet easily.

X-RAY MAG: What sources do

you use to form or inform your underwater images?

The best information on my marine subjects is found first hand in the water—just observing them as they live. Photos from any source are also welcome, as well as more information from other sources including videos, photos and even written descriptions.

X-RAY MAG: What are your favorite dive sites?

All my dive sites are around St. Lucia. The best is Anse Chastanet, then Anse Cochon, the Pitons reserve, and then there is Maria Island, with its pristine flat waters.

X-RAY MAG: What do you want to tell or show the viewer about

the marine environment?

It is not so much what I want to tell them, but to make them feel and to see the beauty of marine life. If I can have a turtle-eating village know the beauty captured by the light dancing on the turtle's carapace, then maybe they might start to act differently towards conservation. You can only be



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Seahorse, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 12 x 15 inches (left)

Tranquility, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 37 x 77 inches (far left)

Sunshine Angel, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 16 x 20 inches (bottom left)

Caribbean Bottlenose, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 23.5 x 40 inches (below)



one of two things: either you are destructive or you are creative—and love is always creative, and so, I would like my work to create love.

X-RAY MAG: Describe your artistic process. What inspires your creative process and how are your art works created?

My work is created from my day dreams and from experiences I have had, even at the fish market. An idea arrives on its own, and I will develop that creation from many pencil sketches. I do not like producing photo-replicated work. I have to struggle to create a scene that no one has done before, and this is very difficult to do but very rewarding when successfully produced.

X-RAY MAG: How does your art relate to conservation or environmental issues facing our oceans and reefs?

The only way conservation is going to be effective is through making people aware of their actions, by bringing them an understanding about the delicate nature of the sea, but mostly by creating a bond that goes beyond just a food source or a garbage dump. Most of the world have never enjoyed the oceans, but maybe my





Anse Chastenet by Daniel Jean-Baptiste. Hand-painted silk, 23.5 x 36 inches

art can be an introduction to this massive stranger.

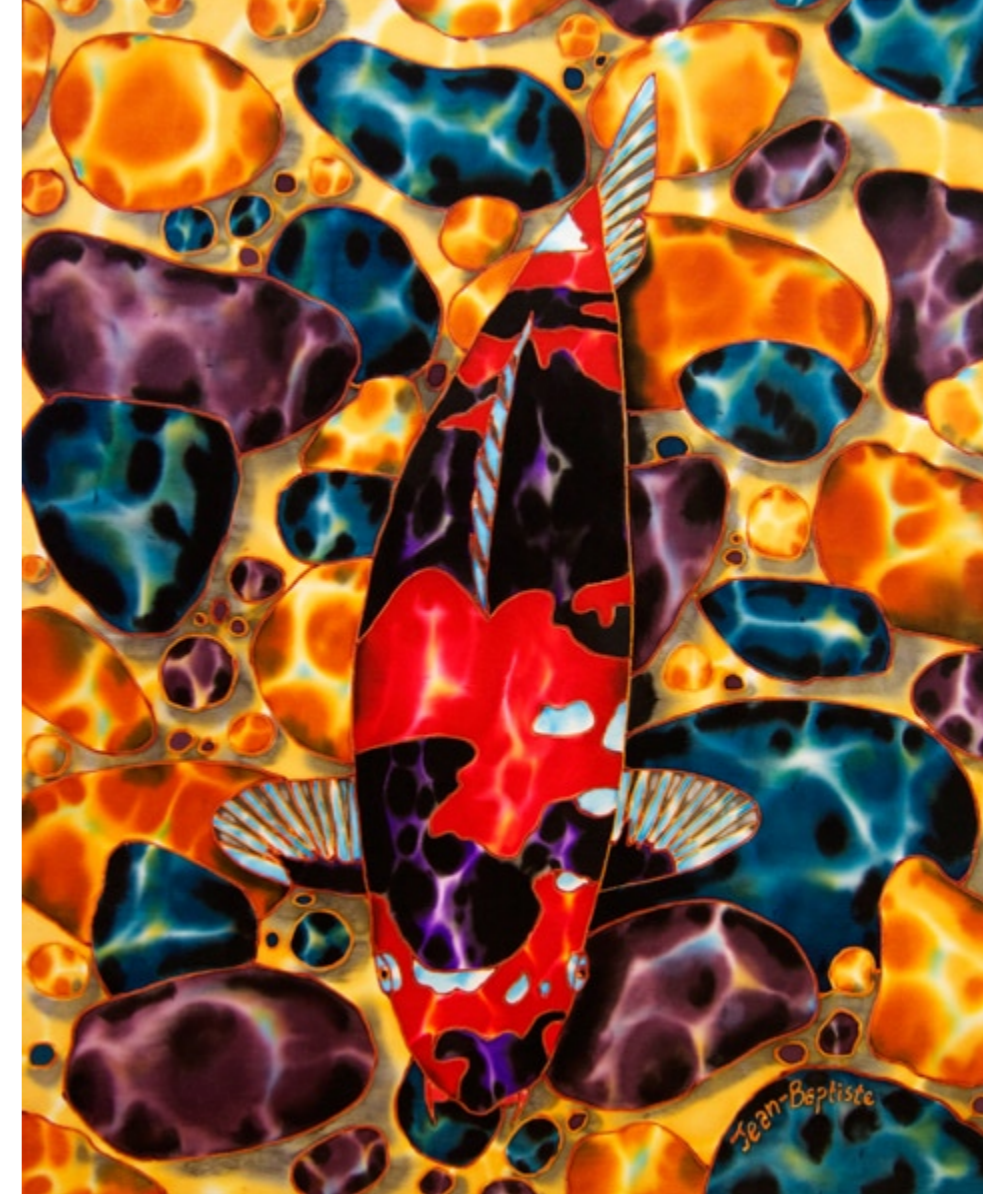
X-RAY MAG: What's important in your art?

I feel that it is important as an artist to

create a distinct style that can always be known as yours. I want the viewer to feel my soul, which has been breathed into each piece. I want you to feel excited about the art, just as much as I am insanely happy to paint them. I just want to

wake up a small part of the awareness of beauty and life. ■

For more information and to order prints or purchase originals from the artist, visit: www.jean-baptiste.com



Black Red Koi, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste
Hand-painted silk
25 x 20 inches (top right)



Caribbean Octopus, by Daniel Jean-Baptiste
Hand-painted silk
16 x 20 inches