

Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW



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National Cathedral Association presents Sacred Silks 'Angels'

By Arthur Lightbourn

Call it divine inspiration or just a good marketing sense, but when Angela Joy Coppola saw multi-colored light flowing through the stained-glass window of a cathedral, she was struck by the idea that it would make a beautiful design for silks.

That, in fact, was how her company, Sacred Silks, was born seven years ago in San Francisco.

Since then, Coppola, now a local resident, has introduced a line of silks inspired by the magnificent stained glass windows, mosaics and paintings of the world's great churches, temples and mosques.

Her silks, designed as "sacred art to live with and wear" can be worn as scarves, displayed as wall hangings or table overlays, framed as art and to create sacred spaces in the home. The company also offers ties, pocket squares and decorative pillows.

A collection of Coppola's Sacred Silks accompanied by holiday gift items from the Washington National Cathedral Museum Shop will be presented at a Festive Holiday Premiere and wine tasting on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at The Inn at Rancho Santa Fe.

Admission is by a donation of \$25 per person or \$45 for two people.

Coppola, 63, president and creative director of Sacred Silks, will be introducing her newest silk design entitled "Angels" which replicates a painting by N.C. Wyeth located in the Holy Spirit Chapel of Washington National Cathedral. The "Angels" design complements two other designs from the Cathedral inspired by the Creation Rose Window and the Jerusalem Cross.

The complete line also includes designs inspired by art from St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England; Notre Dame in Paris; England's Canterbury Cathedral; the Central Synagogue in New York; Temple Emanu-El in San Francisco, and the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Cathedral which serves as a national house of prayer for all people and relies entirely on private support.

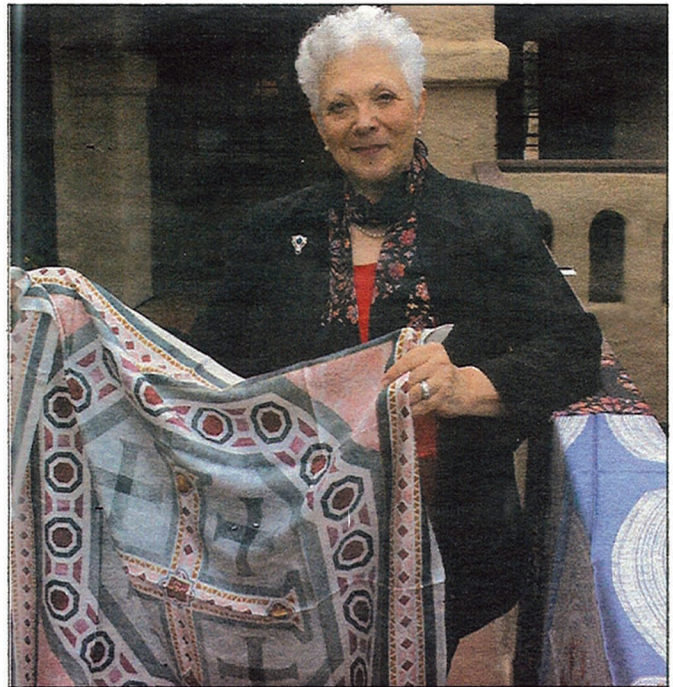
Coppola was born in New York and lived there for 30 years. "I grew up around the fashion industry," she said. "My uncles owned a women's upscale coat and suit house in New York City. When I was young, I used to hang around their showrooms because I was so fascinated by what they were up to....So I was kind of weaned on the fashion business. I always loved it.

"In fact, my first job was at Revlon. My second job was at Faberge when it was the largest perfume company in the world and, by the time I was 28, I was corporate creative director of Faberge."

She moved to San Francisco as a vice president of a health and beauty aids company and eventually opened her own retail advertising agency, Coppola Communications, which she ran for 16 years before moving to San Diego in 2002.

"I decided to give myself the beach as a gift for the rest of my life," she said.

She said she is not related to film maker Francis Ford Coppola, but "I used to get scripts now and then, air mailed or Fedexed," she laughed. "We now know of each other."



Angela Joy Coppola with a "Sacred Silk."

She started Sacred Silks initially to help generate sales for the gift shop at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral.

She recalls walking in the park across from the Cathedral one evening when she noticed the East Rose Window lit from behind. "And this little voice inside me said that would make the most beautiful silk square."

"I actually donated money to the Cathedral to get the project off the ground," she said. Eventually she formed her company, which is now located with a staff of five in Cardiff-by-the-Sea.

Coppola's company pays royalties to the various sacred sites that are represented in her designs.

"Our mission is to include every religion in the world so that

people will begin to see the similarities in religions rather than the differences," she said.

Coppola was raised a Catholic and "when I was 19 I discovered Buddhism." She later went on to study Hinduism and practice Yoga. "Let me say this, I have been a seeker my whole life. I am extremely interested in human consciousness and enlightenment."

For reservations and additional information on the Nov. 6 Festive Holiday Premiere, please call Susan Stone Hayes at 858-342-9596. Checks payable to: NCA/ San Diego, P.O. Box 869, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067. Sacred Silks Web site is: www.sacredsilks.com.