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## Sensuous Silks at Soft Box

By ANNE HILTON

WRAPS, ponchos, clutch purses, shirts, sashes and scarves all in softest, hand-painted silks glowed on the walls of Soft Box Studios, Alcazar Street at the opening of Clara Applewhaite Mitchell's exhibition, "Nature Rhythm" on Monday, July 7.

Sun catchers were, perhaps, the most intriguing decorative wall – or rather ceiling – hanging. The fiery orange of one seen here seemed to capture the raging fires of the star that gives light and life to the earth. The delicate beauty of flowers are the features of the other sun catchers we photographed, together with sashes in the colours of nature herself, the green of the rains, the dun colours of the dry season with its bright red flowers.

Seaweed was the inspiration for the silk poncho (for evening wear), but should a potential buyer prefer a different colour scheme or basic design, the piece can be made to order. Although all the pieces displayed are for sale, if, for example, one would like a wrap, poncho, sash, clutch purse – or even a cushion cover – in the gorgeous bright blue, green, grey, pale mauve tints of the silk scarf on show, they can be made to order.

However, as Clara paints each piece by hand (no silk-screen process in "Nature Rhythm") each one is unique, no two are exactly the same. One may have a flower design on the back of a white silk shirt, or on the front on one side only, or only on the sleeves – and wherever these flowers are painted they are never quite the same. The choice is yours, the design is Clara Applewhaite Mitchell's.

For a romantic evening under the stars, the poncho, matched with a clutch purse, or a simple scarf and purse add a touch of practical elegance to keep you warm on a cool night.

The wall hangings were another delight in Soft Box. "Abstract Impression" is perhaps the best way to describe

the one shown here, blowing in the gentle breeze from the fans in the studio.

Unfortunately "Nature Rhythm" closes today; however, if you'd like to get one of these lovely pieces you can contact Clara Applewhaite Mitchell at 394-1317 or visit her website [www.claradesigns.com](http://www.claradesigns.com).



SILK WALL hanging.



TWO SILK clutch purses.



"SUN CATCHER"



SILK poncho for evening wear.



JANNICE models a silk wrap at the opening of "Nature Rhythms".



SILK SCARF



SILK SASH and clutch purse to match.