



## Inma Medina Studio



With her watercolor-printed silk scarves, Inma Medina creates wearable art.

**A** native of the Dominican Republic, Inma Medina earned a bachelor's degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology and went on to spend more than a quarter-century working in the New York City fashion industry for the likes of Carolina Herrera, Diane Von Furstenberg and Jason Wu. "I worked with Oscar de la Renta. We dressed first ladies," Medina says while describing her journey in fashion design.

There was a home in Orange waiting for her, and after returning, Medina launched a pattern-development service in 2015, serving the same corps of distinguished designers, as well as the New York City fashion label Monse and others. At the same time, her creativity was calling her in another direction, and in 2017 she began teaching herself how to paint in watercolors as part of a vision of translating her paintings into luxury silk scarves.

A self-professed perfectionist, Medina embraced the rigorous strictures of botanical art, which demands fidelity to each subject's form, colors and scientific qualities—to the point of having her work accepted into many international juried exhibitions of the American Society of Botanical Artists, as well as Northeast Watercolor Society juried exhibits.

In the summer of 2021, she launched an online shop featuring her original watercolors and silk and cashmere scarves. She gravitates toward large, bright flowers, and her most striking paintings, such as *Amaryllis Bogota*, achieve the impact of visual chamber music, delicate and beautiful with an undercurrent of depth and complexity. When the botanicals translate into scarves, produced one at a time, more magic happens. While high-fashion scarves often favor the geometries of repeating patterns, Medina's devotion to depicting a single large flower, or organic groupings of images, creates an interplay of bold colors that transforms each scarf into a work of abstract art when folded and worn. The result is modern feminine flair that heightens the style signature of the person wearing it. —DPC

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