

## Modern **Ketubah** by fine art photographer Daniel Sroka

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### What is a ketubah? A work of fine art that symbolizes the beauty of your marriage

by Daniel Sroka

A ketubah is a marriage certificate that uses images and words to express the love and commitment of your marriage vows. While the ketubah has its roots as a Jewish wedding tradition, its beauty has become embraced by couples from all different religions and cultures. At Modern Ketubah, we specialize in creating beautiful, contemporary fine art ketubahs for all couples, whether Jewish, interfaith, same-sex, or multi-cultural. Everyone can have a Modern Ketubah.



What does “ketubah” mean?

Ketubah (pronounced “keh-TOO-buh”) is from the Hebrew word , and literally means “document” or “it is written”. Lately it has become commonly used to describe any document or artwork signed by the bride and groom that states their vows to each other. You see all of the different spellings of ketubah (such as ketubot, ketubbah, ketuba, and katuba) because the Hebrew language uses a different alphabet from English, so there is no direct correlation between the letters. “Ketubah” is the most common English spelling. “Ketubot” is the correct plural form of ketubah, but since not everyone is familiar with this, I use the more familiar-sounding “ketubahs”.

Does a ketubah have to look so traditional or old-fashioned?

Not at all! I create my ketubahs from my own fine art abstract nature photography, for a modern, organic style. Since your ketubah is a physical symbol of your marriage, like your wedding rings, it should match your own idea of beauty and symbolism. You should therefore find a ketubah that you consider beautiful. Your ketubah is a work of art that will hang in your home for the rest of your life, so you should choose one that reflect your own artistic tastes and styles. My ketubah designs are unique, because unlike many others, mine all originated as works of fine art, and are created to the exact standards I use for the art I show in galleries and exhibitions.



## Can we get an interfaith ketubah?

Yes. Since I am in an interfaith marriage myself, all of my ketubahs are specifically designed for interfaith and multicultural weddings. I created these designs and texts to address the needs and concerns of a couple bringing together two families, backgrounds, and religions. By using symbols from nature, my ketubahs they celebrate your interfaith marriage with images that are meaningful to both of your traditions.

## Can we get a ketubah for our “non-traditional” wedding?

Yes! Every couple is non-traditional in some way. I have worked with couples from all sorts of backgrounds to create a ketubah that is right for them. Since my ketubah designs use images of flowers and nature, they are uniquely universal and appealing to people from all backgrounds. I have customized ketubot for many same-sex couples, vow renewals, non-Jewish couples, anniversaries, and other special celebrations.

## How do we get started?

You can customize the text and design of your ketubah to say exactly what you want. To find your perfect ketubah, the first thing to do is to find a ketubah design whose imagery and words calls out to you, that feels special and meaningful to you: <http://modernketubah.com/all>

You should also look at all of the texts and options that are available, and find the language that best captures the spirit of your wedding: <http://modernketubah.com/texts>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time. (Yes, you can talk directly with the artist making your ketubah!) You can email me at [contact@modernketubah.com](mailto:contact@modernketubah.com) or call me at **815-301-8836**. At no time are you alone in this process! I am the designer, artist, and owner of Modern Ketubah, so you know that you will always get a direct and clear answer to any question you might have.

Daniel Sroka is the artist and owner of Modern Ketubah at [www.modernketubah.com](http://www.modernketubah.com). He creates modern fine art wedding ketubahs from his abstract photographs of flowers and leaves for interfaith, Jewish, and multi-cultural couples. All articles are copyright by Daniel Sroka ©2012. All rights reserved. These articles can only be reprinted with permission of the author. Modern Ketubah is a registered trademark of Daniel Sroka Designs LLC.