



**LOUKIA RICHARDS, UK, GREECE**

Title: "salve", Materials: textiles, Price: € 330,00

Necklace made of textile (silk) with turquoise stones, handwoven and handsewn with cotton and silk threads. No metal string was used; the necklace is hypoallergenic. The dimensions of the necklace are: 45cm (length), 15cm (width), 1cm (depth)

My source of inspiration was the 'knot string' which is still used by Christian orthodox monks to count their prayers. I wanted to illustrate purity of the heart and completion or union with the divine through very simple means. For that reason I used the colour white, while the turquoise stones with their blue colour symbolize heaven and also serve as protection against evil-- as is the customary use of the blue stone in the East among Christians, Muslims and Jews alike. The colour gold to be found inside the twists of the string is the colour of the Lord. Red stands for flame, the symbol of the immortality of the soul. The word 'Salve' (save me from destruction) on the upper part of the necklace visualizes a very common, age-old, Christian 'mantra', both in the West and in the East.

