CLAIMS

1. An eye enhancement contact lens, the eye enhancement contact lens comprising a curved polymeric lens having at least one printed layer of a pattern that visually changes the cosmetic appearance of the iris and limbus of an eye to an observer,

wherein the pattern contains an ink including a special effect pigment;

wherein the special effect pigment is in sufficient concentration to render the pattern less visible to an observer when positioned over the sclera, because of placement or normal lens movement on eye and iris size, than the same pattern that is free of special effect pigments, thereby providing a more natural appearance; and

wherein the opacity of the cosmetic pattern exhibits an opacity less than or equal to 30 percent.

2. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 1, wherein the pattern is a substantially annular arrangement.

3. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the special effect pigment is selected from the group consisting of muscovite mica, synthetic fluorphlogopite, synthetic aluminum oxides, borosilicates, calcium aluminum borosilicates, silicon dioxide platelets, metal oxide coated muscovite mica, metal oxide coated synthetic fluorphlogopite, metal oxide coated synthetic aluminum oxides, metal oxide coated borosilicates, metal coated calcium aluminum borosilicates, metal oxide coated silicon dioxide platelets, and combinations thereof.

4. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 1-3, wherein the special effect pigment varies in concentration within the pattern.

5. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 4, wherein the special effect pigment is more concentrated in an outermost periphery of the pattern.

6. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 5, wherein the outermost periphery represents 1% to 40% of the annular width of the pattern.

7. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 6, wherein the outermost periphery represents 5% to 30% of the annular width of the pattern.

8. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 1-7, wherein the opacity of the cosmetic pattern exhibits an opacity less than or equal to 25 percent; less than or equal to 20 percent; less than or equal to 15 percent; less than or equal to 10 percent; or less than or equal to 5 percent.

9. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 1-8, wherein the special effect pigment is in regions of the lens overlaying the iris and the sclera.

10. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 1-9, wherein the ink further comprises a solvent.

11. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 10, wherein the special effect pigment concentration in the ink is between 0.01 weight percent and 50 weight percent.

12. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 11, wherein the special effect pigment concentration in the ink is between 0.5 weight percent and 40 weight percent.

13. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 12, wherein the special effect pigment concentration in the ink is between 5 weight percent and 30 weight percent.

14. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 10-13, wherein the ink further comprises a colorant.

15. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 14, wherein the colorant is selected from the group consisting of metal oxide pigments, organic dyes, and combinations thereof.

16. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 15, wherein the metal oxide pigments are selected from the group consisting of iron oxide, chromium oxide, titanium dioxide, and combinations thereof.

17. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 15, wherein the organic dyes are selected from the group consisting of phthalocyanine blue, phthalocyanine green, carbazole violet, vat orange 1, and combinations thereof.

18. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 14-17, wherein a colorant concentration in the ink is between 0.01 weight percent and 27 weight percent.

19. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 18, wherein the colorant concentration in the ink is between 0.1 weight percent and 10 weight percent.

20. The eye enhancement contact lens of claim 18, wherein the colorant concentration in the ink is between 0.1 weight percent and 5 weight percent.

21. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 1-20, wherein the eye enhancement contact lens is round.

22. The eye enhancement contact lens of any of claims 1-20, wherein the eye enhancement contact lens is non-round.