

Lesson No.	Title of Lesson	Module No.
4	Folk Art of India	1

### Brief Introduction

- India has inherited a pre-Aryan culture which is reflected in the folk art.
- Cults like *Tantra Shakti*, *Vaishnav*, *Buddhist* are very important in the life of folk artists.
- The needs of rural society for art and craft objects are supplied by the local artists and craftsmen, which are mainly of three types:
  - Ritualistic
  - Utilitarian
  - Individualistic
- There are many kinds of ritualistic folk arts like *Patachitra*, *Pichuai*, *Alpana*, *Kolam* etc. These are made by rural artists without any formal training and most of these designs are repeated by generation after generation. Started from *Harappa*, there is hardly any change in the motif of *Terracotta* toys.
- Some folk artists have attempted to experiment and develop new styles within the old format.
- These innovations can be found in the motif of *Madhubani Painting*, *Kanthal Design* and *Kalighat Patachitra*.

#### 4.1

#### KOLAM

#### Particulars

*Title* : Floor Painting with "Kalas"



*Artist* : Unknown House-wife

*Medium* : Rice Paste and Pigments

*Style* : Kolam

*Period* : 1992

*Site* : A locality near Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu

#### Appreciation of the Kolam

- Floor decoration is one of the most popular forms of art found throughout the country in different styles like *Alpana*, *Rangoli*, *Kolam*, *Sanjhi* etc.
- *Kolam* is done on the floor in front of the house or before the alter of deity during cultural and religious festivals in South India, especially during the *Pongal* festival, as a symbol of fortune.
- Designs and motifs are traditional in nature and there are both floral and geometrical forms.

### Develop your Understanding about Kolam

- The dry coarse ground rice flour is held by the artist between the thumb and forefingers.
- The hands of the artist keep on moving while the rice powder is rubbed to release on the moist floor along the pre-determined design.
- It is very important for the artist to continue the drawing as long as possible without any pause.
- This **Kolam** is painted by a house-wife and it shows the free hand drawing skill of the artist. Young girls learn this from mothers and grandmothers.

### Evaluate Yourself

- 4.1.1 Specify the designs and motifs used in **Kolam** paintings.
- 4.1.2 Determine some of the most popular forms of floor decoration found in the country.
- 4.1.3 What does **Kolam** painting symbolise?

### Answer

- 4.1.1 Floral and geometrical forms.
- 4.1.2 **Alpana, Rangoli, Kolam, Sanjhi** etc.
- 4.1.3 Fortune.

## 4.2

### PHULKARI

#### Particulars

Title : *Chadar*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Embroidery on cloth with coloured thread*

Style : *Phulkari*

Period : *Contemporary*



### Appreciation of the Phulkari

- **Phulkari** actually means “Flowered work”.
- A type of embroidery practiced by folk women in Punjab.
- The given work of **Phulkari** is designed with traditional geometrical shapes.
- Star forms are stitched with golden yellow and silvery white thread on red cloth.
- The basic motif consists of a large star surrounded with small stars.
- Basic motifs of the design are geometrical in the form of squares and triangles.

### Develop your understanding about Phulkari

- The women artists pick up the outline of each section with a needle before it is worked in a direction that contrasts with the section adjacent to it.
  - The combination of contrasting vertical and horizontal stitches done by the artists results in a beautiful pattern.
  - The artists use simple designs as well as large sized elaborate ones.
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**Evaluate Yourself**

- 4.2.1 Mention the shapes used in the given work of **Phulkari** designed by the Artist.
- 4.2.2 Determine the basic motif of the given work of **Phulkari**.
- 4.2.3 Mention the medium used by the artists in **Phulkari**.

**Answer**

- 4.2.1 Geometrical shapes.
- 4.2.2 A large star surrounded by the small stars.
- 4.2.3 Embroidery on cloth with coloured thread.

**4.3****KANTHA STITCHING****Particulars**

*Title* : *Kantha from Bengal*

*Artist* : *Unknown*

*Medium* : *Embroidery on silk with Coloured Thread*

*Style* : *Kantha Stitching*

*Period* : *Contemporary*

**Appreciation of the Kantha**

- The given **Kantha** is a Saree which is stitched in a typical traditional style and technique.
- The motifs are stylized forms of animals and human figures.
- The base pink colour of the *saree* is done in chain stitch with various coloured threads.
- A king like figure is seen sitting on the horse with umbrella in his hand.
- The influence of **Kalighat Patchitra** is very clear on these motifs.

**Develop your understanding about Kantha**

- Bengal has a delightful folk tradition of embroidery and quilting which is known as **Kantha**.
- The **Kanthas** are made of discarded *Sarees* and *Dhotis* which are sewn together by women of all classes in Bengal particularly old women to use their spare time.
- Motifs and designs are taken from rural landscapes, ritualistic activities, objects from every day life, rural festivals, circus entertainers and even historical figures.
- The folk artists have keen power of observation of day to day happenings around them to pick up designs for the motifs.

**Evaluate Yourself**

- 4.3.1 Find out the motifs used in the given **Kantha Sarees**.
- 4.3.2 Identify the figure sitting on the horse in the given **Kantha**.
- 4.3.3 Specify the artists engaged in **Kantha** stitching.

**Answer**

- 4.3.1 Stylized forms of animals and human figures.
- 4.3.2 A king like figure.
- 4.3.3 Folk artists.

**Do You Know?**

- Some popular and well known folk art forms are- **Kalamkari, Kolam, Madhubani, Kalighat Patachitra, Phulkari, Kantha**.
  - **Kolam** is floor decoration while **Phulkari** and **Kantha** are embroidery on cloth.
  - **Alpana, Kolam, Rangoli** are the most popular art forms of floor decoration.
  - The folk artists use the same motifs and designs generation after generation.
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