

## Window To India at Consulate General of India, Hong Kong

### Dhokra Work



The lost-wax metal casting is an ancient craft in India, that has an unbroken tradition of about 5000 years (traditionally practiced by the Gadwas, Gonds and Dhurwas tribes of Chhattisgarh). This technique is commonly practiced for making ritual and utilitarian brass and bronze objects in tribal areas. Traditionally the items made includes utensils, figures of gods and goddesses, equestrian figures, elephants, horse, bulls, birds, lamps and ornaments. It involves patterning a clay core intricately with wax ribbons and then coating it carefully with a mix of clay and hay. The wax is subsequently melted off, and the cavity formed is filled with molten metal - an alloy of copper and tin. When this solidifies, the craftsman reveals the beauty of his creation by cautiously breaking open the outer clay shell.

## Meenakari Work



Meenakari - Enameling is the art of colorings or decorating a metal surface by attaching or fusing pieces of different mineral substances, over it. Enameling is considered the most alluring and technical of all metal decorations. In the past enameling was only done on gold, but presently it is done on other metals like silver, copper etc.

The technique of Ambabari Meenakari which belongs to Jaipur, Rajasthan, requires a high degree of skill and application. The piece of metal on which meenakari is to be done is fixed on a lac stick. Delicate designs of flowers, birds, fish etc are etched or engraved on it. This leads to the creation of walls or grooves, to hold color. Enamel dust of required color is then poured into the grooves and each color is fired individually. The heat of the furnace melts the color and the colored liquid gets spread equally into the groove. This process is repeated with each color.

## Tarkashi



The technique of inlaying fine flattened wire of brass, copper or silver in wood is called Tarkashi. The patterns inlaid are usually geometric forms or florals with inspirations from Mughal arts. Metal inlay is a painstaking and highly skilled craft. The artisan transfers a design from a piece of paper onto a block of wood. He then carves deep, thin grooves along the trace. The engravings are inlaid with brass, copper & silver. Small coiled dot-like forms called bhiriyan, an element unique to tarkashi, are beaten directly into wood. The object is then planed, sanded with a water based emery paper and machine buffed to give it a smooth polish.

## Longpi Pottery



Most of the villages of Manipur have distinct features in their pottery, each determined by its colours and designs. It is the Longpi (Nungbi) village though that has taken the lead outside the state and made a mark with its black earthenware crafted by Tangkhul tribe who reside in Nungbi village. The technique of this art is said to be handed down from the Neolithic period. A unique feature of this craft is that it is crafted without a potter's wheel. Clay and black/serpentine rock are the two main ingredients used for this craft.

## Mosaic Work



A time-worned handicraft of India, mosaic crafts, made in the state of Rajasthan are influenced by Turkish and Moghul art forms. The art comprises of intricate glass crystal work on transparent glass shapes sometimes using a flux layer of ceramic in order to accentuate the light coming through the colored glass crystals when lit. Tessellation, an old art form, is used to make mosaic lamps. This technique is also used in art, design, and many other mediums. When making a mosaic, each piece of tile or glass is meticulously sculpted and assembled to form one antic piece. To produce a mosaic look, these pieces can be arranged in a variety of ways.

## Bidri Work



Originating in the town of Bidar in Karnataka, in the 14th century, Bidri handicraft is an art of Inlaying Alloys. Soil at Bidar fort, magically imparts black color to the primary metals & has been accorded prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) Status. A new mould must be prepared to make a cast in which molten metal, an alloy of zinc & copper is poured. Motifs are sketched on them to be etched with a chisel and hammer. The engravings are inlaid with silver wire. It is this contrast of shining silver to the black metal that is unique to Bidri art.

## **Pithora Art Painting**



The Pithora paintings are done by the Rathwa, Bhil, Nayak and Tadi tribes of Gujarat, parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The origin of these paintings goes back a few thousand years, arising from the cave paintings at a local hilltop near *korajidungar*. These paintings speak of the social, cultural and mythological life and beliefs of the tribals. The Pithora wall paintings are done on the main wall of the house, which divides the *verandah* from the kitchen. This part of the house is considered sacred to Pithoro, the god of food grains and the principal deity of the tribe.

## **Warli Painting**



Warli Art and Warli painting are tribal art done majorly by the Adivasi community located in North Sahyadri Range in western India. The Warli art is based on the concept of Mother Nature and the elements of nature are often kept in focus. These rudimentary paintings are made using a set of geometric shapes- a circle, a triangle, and a square. These shapes are considered to be symbolic of different elements found in nature which are-

1. *The circle represents the sun and the moon.*
2. *The triangle represents mountains and conical trees.*

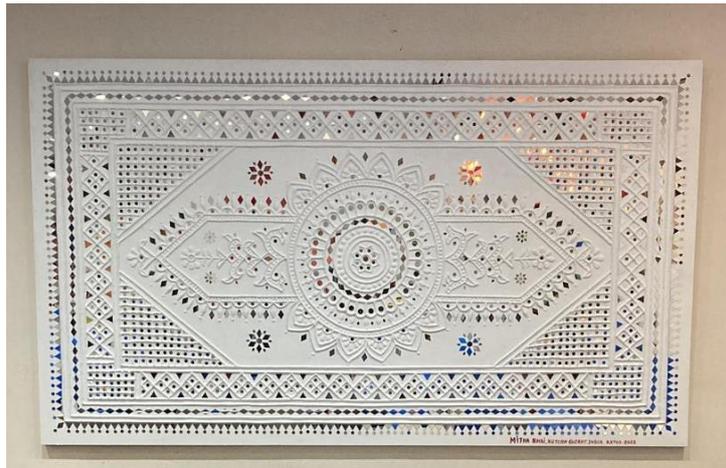
3. *The square is a human invention depicting a sacred enclosure or a piece of land. The central motif in every ritual painting is a square known as the “chauk” or “chaukat”.*

### Gond Art



The word ‘Gond’ comes from the Dravidian expression ‘Kond’ which means ‘green mountain’. Gond painting is a famous folk art of the Gond tribal community of central India. It is a form of painting from folk and tribal art that is practiced by one of the largest tribes in India – the Gond – who are predominantly from Madhya Pradesh, but can also be found in pockets of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. The history of the Gond people dates nearly 1400 years. Blended with mystery, pattern, blend of colours and humour, these art pieces depict a modern psyche. The paintings use vibrant colors like orange, yellow, blue and red, and are created with articulately drawn lines and dots as the method to bring it to life. With natural colors obtained from various sources like flowers, stones, etc. are used for the creation of these beautiful paintings.

## Lippan Kaam



Chhittar Kaam is the mural tradition from the Kutch region in Gujarat. The craft form was traditionally done using the wild ass or camel dung, which means lippan in Gujarati, and hence its more famous name Lippan Kaam. The mud work, done in bas-relief has been practiced by the various communities in the region. The mud work is done on the bhungas, or the circular mud huts where the locals live. The clay work increases the strength of the bhungas and also act as insulators. The air gaps between the clay keep the houses cool in summers and warm in winters. The aabhla, or the mirrors used in lippan reflect light from the lamps and make the interiors bright even with a single lit diya. The motifs are derived from everyday life with animals such as peacocks, camels, elephants, temples and geometric patterns.

## Kushmandi Wooden Mask



Kushmandi block of South Dinajpur is the home of the wooden mask makers better known as Kushmandi masks or in colloquial terms "Mukha". The Kushmandi masks are generally objects of devotion very devoutly crafted by the villagers. Thus these masks also called the Gomira masks catered to the needs of the Gomira dancers and to the villagers who gives these masks as offerings to the local deities with must piousness. The Kushmandi masks or Gomira masks are usually made of light wood preferably the 'Gamhar' wood. Alternatively, wood from mahogany and mango are also used. The wood is first soaked and dried alternatively. This seasoning makes the wood crack resistant and reduces the chance of

infestation. Later the wood is chemically treated by soaking the wood in a solution of boric acid, borax and copper sulphate mixed with water in the proportion of 3:4:5. This makes the wood termite and bug resistant. After seasoning and chemical treatment, the wood is cut in cross-section. The designs are then drawn on the wooden block and then the craftsmen carve out the motifs and designs on the block.

### **Araku Coffee**



These coffee beans are well-known for being produced in the hilly terrains of Andhra Pradesh as well as in Odisha. The specialty of these beans lies in the fact that they are grown through organic cultivation. The tribals focus on green manure, along with organic ways of pest management so as to make the coffee pure and chemical-free.

### **Darjeeling Tea**



Darjeeling tea is a well-known tea variety that is exported around the world. It grows in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, India. Darjeeling tea is unique because the leaves can be processed in different ways, resulting in black, green, white, or oolong tea. It is a thin, light-colored tea with a floral aroma. The tea plant, like most plants, goes through periods of growth and periods of dormancy. Each flush is a period that starts when the tea plant grows new leaves and ends when those leaves are harvested. Darjeeling tea has three major flushes. The first flush takes place mid-March to May, the second flush is from June to mid-August, and the third flush (also known as autumn flush) occurs October to November.

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