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CRAFTS OF INDIA



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WOVEN TEXTILES



Pochampally Ikat, Japore



Woven upholstery

About the craft

Ikat fabric is a dyeing technique used to create a distinct style of textile patterns. Ikat is done by resist dyeing sections of the yarns prior to weaving the fabric. A characteristic of ikat textiles is an apparent “blurriness” to the design.

Region

Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat



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EMBROIDERED TEXTILES



Chikankari, Good Earth



Chikankari pillow covers

About the craft

Chikankari is very similar to Shadow work, a white embroidery work that uses herringbone stitches on the back of the fabric to fill designs, resulting in a fine shadow on the face of the fabric. Though traditionally it was done on Muslin cloth, white thread on white fabric, today it can be seen on various fabrics and colors, popularly pastels.

Region

Mainly Uttar Pradesh.
Also available in Delhi, Jaipur, West Bengal and Hyderabad.



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BRASS WORK



Suri Cake stand, Anantaya



Thaali table, Anantaya



Candle Stand, Good Earth

About the craft

India is well known for its beautiful brass craft, which covers a wide range of products, ranging from decoration items to utility ware. India, in fact, is one of the largest brass makers in the world. Brass is an alloy of copper and zinc. A diverse range of brass can be created simply by varying the proportion of these two ingredients. Brass has a yellow color that is somewhat similar to gold. It is also fairly resistant to tarnishing.

Region

Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kashmir, Delhi.



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DHOKRA



Dashavatar, Baaya



Dashavatar, Baaya



Bull, Takshini

About the craft

One of the oldest forms of metal casting, known as the 'lost wax process', with over 4000 years of history. Intricate patterns are generated with wax threads, which are replaced with the hot molten brass, when poured into the mould. Traditionally, Dokra products were created to make utility objects apart from ceremonial accessories.

Region

Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar Orissa and Chhattisgarh



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COPPER ENAMEL



Ocean Pearl coaster set, Baaya



Zephyr Chandelier, Baaya

About the craft

Enamelling is an ancient and widespread art form, mainly used in jewellery and decorative arts. It involves colouring the surface of metals by fusing brilliant glass powder colours on it. The Persian art, brought to India in the late 50s is a painstaking process and is a true test of the dexterity of the artisans. Copper wire motif work is a specialty in the products created in Maharashtra.

Region

Maharashtra, Delhi and Rajasthan



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BEATEN COPPER



T-lights, Coppre



Sindhu water jug, Good Earth

About the craft

The craft is transmitted orally from one generation to another. Designs are made by skilfully hammering a series of tiny dents into the heated metal. Utensils are manually finished by polishing with traditional materials such as sand and tamarind juice. Traditionally they were manufactured for ritual or utilitarian purposes, both for individual and community use on special occasions such as weddings or at temples.

Region

Uttarakhand and Maharashtra



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JUTE FIBRES



Braided Rug



Jute Bags



Kasba Rug, Dharma Door

About the craft

Jute is a strong and durable natural fiber. It is 100% biodegradable and recyclable. It is known as the “Golden fiber” because of its shiny appearance and somewhat golden color. Cultivated in the eastern states of the country with Bengal being its highest producer, Jute is one of the most affordable fibers used in the manufacturing of various products and handicrafts all over the world.

Region

West Bengal and Jharkhand



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CANE AND NATURAL FIBRES



Divaan, Design ni Dukaan



Cane table lamp



Seagrass Basket, Nicobar

About the craft

Traditionally, natural fibers have been used in all cultures for making utilitarian products. Different parts of the plant are used. Fibers can be extracted from the bark (banana, jute, hemp, ramie), stem (banana, palm, bamboo), leaf (palm, screw pine, sisal, agave), husk (coir), seeds (cotton), and grass (sikki, madhurkati, benakati, munj). Animal fibers are obtained from a variety of animal coats, and insect fibers from cocoons.

Region

West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh.



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BAMBOO FURNITURE



Dining table set, La Design



Truss Me, Sandeep Sangaru

About the craft

The vigorous bamboo craft tradition gets the most creative expression through the craftsmanship of the various tribes. The spectacular variety and diverse range of bamboo crafts clearly exhibit the skill of the artisans in working with canes and bamboos. There are various techniques involved in working with Bamboo like binding, carving, splits, turning etc.

Region

Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha.



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CARVED WOOD FURNITURE



Swan Chair, Design ni Dukaan



Furnitures, Design ni Dukaan

About the craft

Wood carving in India has been around since ancient times, with ancient wood carved temples in Uttar Pradesh bearing witness to this. While Sheesham is the most widely used type of wood, mango, walnut, deodar, ebony and sandalwood are also used. Depending on local availability, different woods were used for wood carving and fashioned into religious, decorative and functional articles.

Region

Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kashmir have their distinct style. Also available in almost all parts of the country.



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KALAMKARI PAINTING



Painting on wood, Baaya



Paintings on cloth



Sarees, Ayush Kejriwal

About the craft

Kalamkari derives its name from 'Kalam' meaning 'pen', and 'Kari' meaning 'work', or 'pen-work'. This refined artwork is characterized by mellifluous lines and refined classical figuratives. In ancient times, groups of musicians and painters called 'Chitrakattis' moved from one village to the other, singing and illustrating the stories of Hindu mythology using this style of art.

Region

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana



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GOND PAINTING



About the craft

These vibrant and imaginative paintings come from the Gond tribe. These paintings are expressions of rituals and folklore that are deeply linked with the day-to-day lives, religious sentiments and beliefs of the people. Themes of Gond paintings are often based on local festivals, nature, Gods, men and objects of daily life are painted in bright, multi-coloured hues.

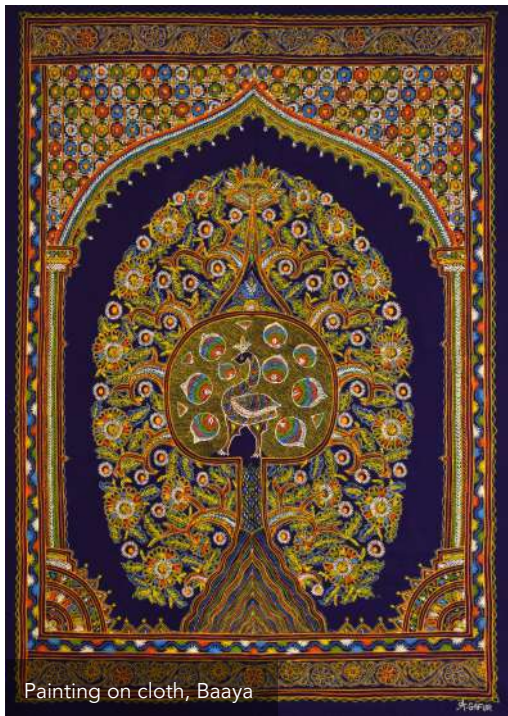
Region

Madhya Pradesh.
Also available in few pockets of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra and Odisha.



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ROGAN PAINTING



Painting on cloth, Baaya



Bags, Itokri



Painting on cloth

About the craft

The traditional technique of ornamenting a fabric with thick, brightly coloured pigments made with castor oil. It is a rare and completely unique art form that is now practiced by only one family in India, from the western state of Gujarat. The art came to India from Persia and therefore, also depicts Persian designs till date.

Region

Gujarat



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STONE WORK



Table top, Anantaya



Marble decor, Anantaya



Jars, Anantaya

About the craft

The stone-carving tradition in India is one of the richest in the world. The skills were handed down as family lore from father to son, a practise prevalent in some parts of the country even today. The fascination for stone has transcended all times and ages. Whether it is ornate inlay with onyx black marble or finely latticed soapstone, the appeal of the stone has been immutable.

Region

Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka



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