

Phad Painting

Artform: Phad Painting

Phad painting, a traditional scroll painting art form from Rajasthan, India, is known for its captivating blend of vibrant colors and intricate designs. This art form is deeply intertwined with the region's storytelling traditions, holding immense cultural and historical significance. Phad paintings are created on long pieces of cloth or canvas, known as Phad. Traditionally, the primary themes depict the heroic deeds and adventures of revered deities like Pabuji and Devnarayan.

The narrative unfolds in a sequential manner, showcasing various episodes from the deity's life. Bold lines and a vibrant color palette characterize Phad paintings. The entire story is meticulously depicted with intricate details, featuring numerous figures and scenes. Phad painting serves as a unique fusion of art and storytelling, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan. The captivating visuals and intricate narratives continue to enthral art enthusiasts and cultural historians alike.

Artwork: Raja ki Sawari, Madana, UNESCO Heritage Sites

This artwork by Shri Kalyan Joshi presents a captivating fusion of traditional and contemporary elements. The central theme showcases a majestic "Raja Ki Sawari" or "The King's Procession". The king, mounted on a decorated horse or elephant, is accompanied by his loyal entourage of courtiers, soldiers, musicians, and attendants.

Joshi incorporates a unique twist by integrating iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites into the scene. The viewer encounters the architectural marvels of Hawa Mahal in Jaipur and the imposing Qutb Minar in Delhi, alongside the wilderness of Ranthambore National Park. Furthermore, the artwork incorporates elements of Madana, a vibrant tribal art form primarily practiced by women in rural Rajasthan. Traditionally drawn as a form of festive celebration, Madana paintings symbolize the welcoming of deities into the home and seek protection for the family. Inspired by nature, Madana depicts animals, birds, flowers, and trees with a focus on perfect symmetry and intricate details.

Artist: Kalyan Joshi

Shri Kalyan Joshi, a renowned Phad artist from Bhilwara, Rajasthan, began his artistic journey at a young age of eight. He learned the art form under the tutelage of his father and guru, the revered Padma Shri awardee, Shree Lal Joshi. Joshi's

artistic path extends beyond tradition; he actively participates in exhibitions across India and internationally. His dedication to the art form is further reflected in his prestigious accolades, including the National Award received in both 2006 and 2010.

Joshi's artistic vision is one of experimentation and innovation. He has pushed the boundaries of Phad art by incorporating new narratives, contemporary styles, and line drawings into his work. He has even collaborated with experts in narrative poetry to create picture montages and ventured into character animation. His dedication extends to the preservation of this art form.

Location: Africa Avenue Underpass, New Delhi

Team Members: Gopal Joshi, Lokesh Joshi, Rahul Pathak, Nirmal Soni, Naresh, Kritika Joshi, Chanchal Soni, Mahaveer Joshi, Ayush Taler, Dev Soni, Mahesh Vishnoi, Rahul Singh, Lavish Joshi, Harsh Joshi, Rakshit Tank, Chandra Prakash Kasera.

Mithila Painting

Artform: Mithila Painting

Mithila paintings, also known as Madhubani paintings, originate from the Mithila region of Bihar. Considered one of India's oldest art forms, it finds mention in the 'Bal Kand' of the Ramayana. British Colonel W.G. Archer 'discovered' this art form in 1934 while surveying earthquake damage. Behind broken mud walls, he found artworks compared to the works of Pablo Picasso. Traditionally, Mithila painting served as a ritual art form, adorning walls and floors during weddings, thread ceremonies, and festivals. Over time, it evolved, practiced, and preserved by women.

The main themes of Mithila paintings revolve around gods and goddesses, nature, trees, birds, and animals. Bold forms, intricate detailing, and vibrant colors characterize this art form. The three styles of Mithila paintings are 'Kachni' [line painting], 'Bharni' [colored painting], and 'Goidana' [tattoo tradition]. The 'Bharni' style, used in this artwork, is known for its bold lines and bright colors.

Artwork: Heritage and Wildlife

This collaborative artwork by fifty artists from three communities – Mithila [Bihar], Gond [Madhya Pradesh], and Phad [Rajasthan] – marks a unique first. The team depicts a vibrant procession with elephants, horses, and musicians, rendered in the Phad painting style. This celebratory parade traverses the jungles of Madhya Pradesh, painted by the Gond artists, before being welcomed by the women of Mithila, portrayed in the Madhubani style.

The central portion under the bridge features motifs of 'kohbar' on both sides, including Bidh Batri [creator], peacocks, elephants with parrots, fishes, and 'goidana' [tattoo] imagery. The central column depicts elements used in rituals. A gateway on either side of the underpass showcases men playing musical instruments and women with diyas, welcoming the guests.

The base of the artwork is a river, symbolizing the rivers of India that connect the country's diverse cultures.

Artist: Manisha Jha

Manisha Jha, a self-taught artist born in Satlakha village of Madhubani district, Bihar, was introduced to the world-famous Madhubani art form at a young age. Witnessing her grandmother and mother practice this art on floors and walls

during rituals, she learned the techniques and process. Jha, an architect by profession, has taken Madhubani art to new heights through her skills and passion. Her paintings depict contemporary themes using this traditional form.

Jha's achievements include prestigious awards like the National Award and the State Award. In 2015, her work was selected for the National Exhibition of Lalit Kala Akademi. Her artwork has been exhibited across India and internationally. Her pieces are part of the permanent collections at the Albertina Museum in Vienna, Austria, the Crafts Museum, IGNCA, and LKA in New Delhi, India.

Location: Africa Avenue Underpass, New Delhi

Team Members: Puja Jha, Manoj Choudhary, Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Ruby Sharma, Ravinder Prasad, Ruby Bhushan, Rupa, Santosh Thakur, Shivani Karn, Deepa Karn, Sneah Jha, Minky Das, Runa Chaudhary, Bandana Jha, Dushyanta Mishra, Sneha Deshpandey, Akansha kumari, Nishigandha Mudgal.

Gond Painting

Artform: Gond Painting

Gond painting is a vibrant and ancient folk art form originating from the Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh, Central India. Characterized by bold lines, intricate geometric patterns, and a rich color palette, this art style is a visual representation of the Gond community's cultural heritage. Traditionally, Gond paintings depict scenes from everyday life, nature, animals, and deities, serving as a visual narrative that reflects the tribe's worldview and their profound connection to the environment. These artworks are not only aesthetically striking but also carry deep symbolic meanings, passed down through generations. Gond paintings are a testament to the tribe's rich cultural heritage and their ability to find beauty in the mundane. This art form has been a vital part of Gond tradition and continues to thrive, inspiring new generations of artists to explore and innovate within this unique style.

Artwork: Forest Scene

This Gond painting, executed by a team led by Venkat Raman Singh Shyam, showcases a lush green forest teeming with life. The artwork depicts a variety of flora and fauna native to the Gond tribe's homeland. The intricate details and vibrant colors capture the beauty and abundance of the natural world. This piece serves as a powerful message about the importance of protecting our environment. It highlights the Gond tribe's deep respect for nature and their commitment to its preservation.

Artist: Venkat Raman Singh Shyam

Venkat Raman Singh Shyam is a renowned Gond artist from Sijhora, Madhya Pradesh. For over 37 years, he has been a leading figure in promoting and revitalizing this traditional art form. He is known for incorporating contemporary themes and narratives into his Gond paintings, while staying true to the essence of the art style. Skilled in various techniques and mediums, Shyam's work ranges from murals and etchings to mixed media, illustrated books, and animation. His acclaimed artwork has been exhibited globally, earning him recognition as a significant voice in the world of contemporary tribal art.

Location: Africa Avenue Underpass, New Delhi

Team Members: Saroj Venkat Shyam, Mrinalini Shyam, Santosh Uikey, Pooja Uikey, Chitrakant Shyam, Phoolchand Dhurwey, Tamshiram Parastey, Vijay Uikey, Pankaj Urveti, Veerendra Dhurwey, Rajesh Pahade, Rajendra Kumar Shyam, Vijay Shyam.





