

Artform: Madhubani Painting

Madhubani Painting, also known as Mithila Painting, is a traditional art form that originated from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. This unique style of painting was historically created on mud walls of homes and has been practiced by the women of the region for centuries. It is deeply intertwined with local customs, beliefs, and folklore, often depicting themes from Hindu mythology, nature, and daily life.

Renowned for its vibrant colors, intricate patterns, and symbolic motifs, Madhubani Painting employs a distinctive style characterized by elaborate borders filled with detailed floral and geometric designs. This art form uses natural dyes and pigments, with a strong emphasis on red, green, blue, black, and yellow hues. The meticulousness and precision in the artwork showcase the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of the Mithila region. Over time, Madhubani Painting has evolved, yet it continues to thrive as a vibrant and culturally rich representation of India's artistic legacy.

Artwork: Kohbar - The Symbol of Marital Bliss

The Kohbar, a significant form of Madhubani Painting, holds a special place in the artistic and cultural traditions of Bihar. Its origins trace back to approximately 2500 years ago, when King Janak commissioned the decoration of palace walls and the Kohbar Ghar, or bride's room, to celebrate the wedding of Shri Ram and Sita Maa. This tradition has since evolved into a ritualistic practice, with Kohbar paintings being created during marriage ceremonies in the Mithila region.

Kohbar paintings are distinguished by their abstract design centered around the Kohbar symbol, surrounded by vibrant and vivid colors that add a lively dimension to the artwork. These paintings are adorned with various symbolic motifs such as lotus flowers, fish, birds, and other elements representing fertility, prosperity, and marital bliss. The intricate patterns and the use of bright colors reflect the celebratory spirit and the deep cultural significance of marriage in Mithila culture.

Artist: Manisha Jha

Manisha Jha is a renowned artist whose journey into the world of Madhubani Painting began at a very early age, influenced by the traditional art practices of her grandmother and mother. A self-taught artist, Manisha has mastered the techniques of this ancient art form through dedicated observation and practice. Professionally an architect, she has successfully integrated her skills and passion to elevate Madhubani art to new heights.

Manisha's work is distinguished by her ability to portray contemporary themes through the lens of traditional Madhubani Painting. Her innovative approach

has garnered her numerous prestigious awards, including the selection of her painting in the National Exhibition of Lalit Kala Akademi in 2015. Her artworks have been showcased in various exhibitions across India and abroad, earning her recognition and acclaim. Manisha Jha continues to be a pivotal figure in the preservation and promotion of Madhubani art, infusing it with new dimensions while honouring its rich heritage.

Location of the Artwork: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Team Members: Manisha Jha, Manoj Chaudhary, Bhushan Kumar, Santosh Thakur, Rabindra Prasad

