

## **Artform: Bengal Patua Painting**

Bengal Patua painting, also known as Pattachitra or scroll painting, stands as a vibrant testament to the rich cultural heritage of West Bengal. Rooted in the traditions of the Patua community, these folk artworks are renowned for their narrative style, vivid colors, and intricate details. The Patuas, or Chitrakars, are storytellers who travel across rural Bengal, singing tales depicted in their scrolls. Themes range from Hindu mythology and local folklore to social issues and contemporary events, each narrative brought to life through bold outlines and expressive forms.

## **Artwork: Sunderban Forest**

In his depiction of the Sunderban Forest, Manoranjan Chitrakar captivates with the essence of Bengal Patua painting. This UNESCO Natural Heritage Site in West Bengal's delta is celebrated for its mangrove forests and diverse wildlife. Chitrakar's painting vividly portrays the ecosystem's dynamics: a tiger stealthily hunting a fish, a crocodile poised near a deer, and locals navigating through dense foliage in search of honey. The artwork's stylized figures and vibrant palette not only capture the region's natural beauty but also evoke the Patua tradition's narrative depth and symbolic richness.

## **Artist: Manoranjan Chitrakar**

Manoranjan Chitrakar hails from Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, inheriting a legacy of Patachitra artistry spanning generations. A recipient of state recognition, he has showcased his craft both nationally and internationally, enriching the cultural tapestry with his distinctive style. Chitrakar's mastery lies in blending traditional techniques with contemporary themes, ensuring Bengal Patua painting remains a dynamic and cherished art form.

**Location of the Artwork:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

**Team Member:** Haseena Chitrakar

