

Artform: Cheriyal Painting

Cheriyal painting, originally known as Nakkashi art, is a cherished traditional art form hailing from Cheriyal village in Telangana, India. Rooted in a centuries-old legacy of storytelling, Cheriyal paintings were historically crafted on scrolls to narrate tales from epics, puranas, and local folklore. This vibrant art form served as both a medium of education and entertainment, carried by itinerant bards across villages.

Characterized by vivid colors, intricate details, and a distinctive narrative style, Cheriyal paintings depict scenes from Hindu epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, along with stories of local deities and rural life. Each painting reflects the community's cultural heritage, showcasing rituals, traditions, and social activities with remarkable artistic flair.

Artwork: Bathukama Festival

The artwork featured in this catalogue celebrates the Bathukama Festival, a significant state festival of Telangana. Lasting nine days, this vibrant celebration begins on Amavasya (new moon day) and culminates with Dussehra. Central to the festival is the creation of Bathukama, a beautiful floral arrangement made from Tengadu, Gunuka, and other flowers collected from the forests. Each day, colorful processions wind from homes to temples, filled with music, dance, and joyful festivities. The highlight is the ceremonial immersion of the Bathukama in water bodies, symbolizing the renewal of life and gratitude to nature.

Artist: Sai Kiran

Sai Kiran, a dedicated artist from Telangana, carries forward the rich tradition of Cheriyal painting passed down through generations in his family. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a lifelong passion for this art form, Sai Kiran's work intricately captures the essence of Telangana's cultural tapestry. His portrayal of the Bathukama Festival not only embodies artistic excellence but also preserves and promotes the cultural heritage of Telangana through his compelling visual narratives.

Location of the Artwork: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

