

Artform: Kalamkari Painting

Kalamkari painting is a traditional Indian art form renowned for its intricate patterns and vibrant colors. The word 'Kalamkari' specifically refers to the meticulous hand-painting technique on cloth using a pen ['kalam' in Persian]. Originating from the modern-day states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Kalamkari art is known for its delicate and detailed designs. This rich and vibrant art form captures India's deep cultural history and artistic traditions. Popular motifs in Kalamkari include the Tree of Life, symbolizing nourishment, and scenes from epic tales such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata, as well as themes based on Buddhism. The intricate designs and natural colors of Kalamkari continue to captivate art enthusiasts worldwide, reflecting the timeless beauty and cultural significance of this ancient practice.

Artwork: Sankranti Festival

This exquisite Kalamkari painting vividly depicts the Sankranti festival, a major harvest celebration in India. The artwork showcases various customs and significances of the festival, emphasizing its importance in agrarian societies. The artist has beautifully illustrated the three festivities celebrated during Sankranti in Andhra Pradesh: Bhogi, Sankranti, and Kanuma. Each festivity is represented with human figures adorned in traditional attire, their expressive faces conveying the joyful spirit of the festival. The adorned bull in the painting symbolizes prosperity and the critical role of livestock in agricultural communities. The vibrant colours, intricate details, and symbolic representation highlight the essence of the Sankranti festival, celebrating the end of winter and the beginning of the harvest season. This artwork preserves the rich traditions and joyous atmosphere of Sankranti, celebrating the agricultural roots and cultural practices of this important Indian festival.

Artist: Talisetty Mohan

Talisetty Mohan, a distinguished artist from Andhra Pradesh, has practiced Kalamkari art since childhood, beginning his journey in 1968. A national award winner, Mohan has exhibited his work across India and in seven other countries, earning international acclaim for his mastery of this intricate art form. His dedication and passion for Kalamkari have made him a prominent figure in preserving and promoting this traditional Indian painting style. Mohan's work reflects a deep understanding of cultural history and artistic traditions, bringing to life the vibrant colours and intricate patterns that define Kalamkari art. His contribution to the art form is invaluable, capturing the essence of Indian heritage and sharing it with the world.

Location: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

