

Arts / Crafts & Contemporary Art of Telangana State

Telangana is known for its rich cultural heritage and enriched with traditional art forms from ancient times. There are *art* forms that are *dying due to a lack of encouragement*. There is a need to create a platform to revive vanishing traditional arts and provide sustenance to artists and artisans as well as contemporary artists of Telangana

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Telangana traditional art forms

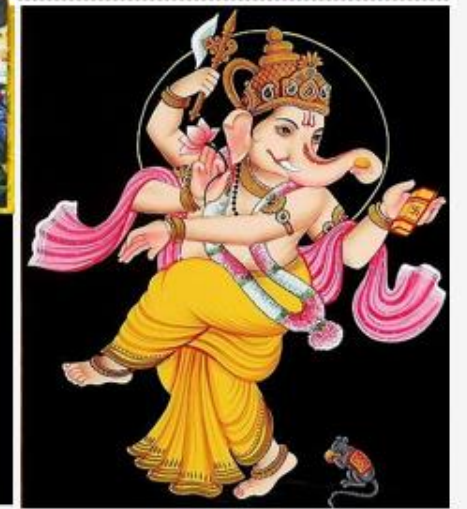
Nirmal Toys & Paintings

Nirmal Toys are world-famous traditional finely carved wooden toys that are exclusively made in the town of Nirmal in Adilabad district of Telangana. Nirmal Art is a 400 years old rich tradition that encompasses softwood toys and attractive paintings as well as furniture.



Telangana traditional art forms - Nirmal Toys & Paintings

Nirmal town has always been famous as a production centre for many items, especially war cannons and toys. The foundries established and supplied ammunition to the Nizam army of Hyderabad state. The Nakashi craftsmen, as well as artists, contributed their skill in the form of exquisite wooden toys and Duco paintings which are collectively named as Nirmal Art.



Telangana traditional art forms - Nirmal Toys & Paintings

Nirmal Toys & Paintings

The Nakashi families of Rajasthan migrated to Nirmal during the 17th century and it is they who brought this art. The Nakashi artisans initially produced these toys from the local variety of softwood. These are called poniki or even white sander. Since they also make use of the Duco colors, the Nirmal paintings are known for a typical shine. The Nirmal toys are even painted in enamel colors, which bring a unique identity to them.



Telangana traditional art forms - Nirmal Toys & Paintings

The novel talent of the Nirmal artisans especially in synthesizing the Indian and Moghul schools of art is admired very much. The actual origin of the Nirmal craft can be dated back to the Kakatiya era. The motifs which are used in Nirmal craft are derived from the floral designs and frescoes found in Ajanta and Ellora art forms and the Mughal miniatures. There are many utilitarian and decorative articles created in Nirmal style. Nirmal Toys are also painted with an herbal extract, imparting golden sheen. Nirmal Toys are popular as they are embellished with exclusive and rich oil colors. The Mughal miniatures' painting on the white wood ponki is considered very attractive and is sold widely to art lovers.



Telangana traditional art forms - Nirmal Toys & Paintings

Ramadugu stone carvings

In our Telangana State, the Ramadugu of Karimnagar district is the only place where the ancient art of making stone sculptures is still continued. Ramadugu sculptors are famous for making idols of gods and goddesses. The inheritors of the age-old art of making sculpture, who had built historic temples and other monumental structures during the Satavahana and Kakatiya dynasties and priced for their skills and creativity



Telangana traditional art forms - Ramadugu stone carvings

It is believed that the sculptors had arrived at the Ramadugu village during the Satavahana dynasty for the construction of a Fort in the village. Due to the local availability of special stone (Amrita Shila), a smooth stone that can be carved easily, the sculptors settled in the Ramadugu village.

Only 50 families remained today in the village. They are now leading a life of misery with only a few takers of their creative sculptures. Due to lack of support, sculptors are leaving this field in search of better livelihood opportunities.



Telangana traditional art forms

Pembarthi Metalcraft

Pembarthi of Warangal district, Telangana State has a rich history of outstanding workmanship of the Metal Craft workers or the “Vishwakarmas”. The intricate sheet metal brass engravings and artifacts made here can be traced back to more than 800 years. The region has witnessed glory during the period of the Kakatiya dynasty which had spanned 500 years.



Telangana traditional art forms - Pambarthi Metalcraft

The process of Sheet metal workmanship became popular as it adorned the vigrahas (statues) as well as vahanas (chariots) of several Hindu temples. With great patronage accorded to temples in Kakatiya kingdom, the Pambarthi sheet metal work attracted attention from all over the country.



Telangana traditional art forms

Nakashi Paintings

Nakashi art is an art form that is practiced in Cheriyal & Nirmal & Jagtial in the state of Telangana, India. They are basically scrolls of narratives from mythology and folklore. Nakashi art usually contains bright hues (most primary colors) with a predominance of red in the background. They are easy to relate to - as the themes and stories are familiar - drawn from the storehouse of ancient literary and folk traditions. Nakashi scrolls and dolls were originally used for storytelling. These days, they are being used to decorate the walls in homes.



Telangana traditional art forms - Nakashi Paintings

Cheriyal paintings are generally the pictorial presentation of scenes from Indian mythological epics such as Ramayana, Mahabharata, Garuda Purana, Krishna Leela, Markandeya Purana, and other mythological scripts. Cheriyal paintings are very similar to other folk paintings say Pattachitra, Phad painting, and the likes as they also act as a visual aid for storytelling. They are made on a long vertical piece of cloth in a narrative form. Traditional folk singers would narrate the stories using Cheriyal as a tool for visual presentation. They would also use harmonium, tabla, and other instruments to bring about tune and music in their narratives.



Telangana traditional art forms

Karimnagar Silver Filigree

Karimnagar Silver Filigree is an ancient art that received Intellectual property rights protection or Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2007. Silver filigree is the art of making silver artifacts and ornaments by using silver wire.

Silver filigree was popular during the Nizam era when the rulers encouraged the silversmiths to make the exquisite silver plates, 'Pandhan', and other artifacts as show-pieces. These artifacts made by the silversmiths of Karimnagar were made available at Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad.



Telangana traditional art forms - Karimnagar Silver Filigree

Since 19th Century AD, the very talented craftsmen of Karimnagar fashioned rich intricate trellis / Jali made of twisted silver wire. The locals say that this unique craft was adopted some 200 years ago by the Elgandal town near the Karimnagar district in Telangana and it later moved to the Karimnagar town in the first decade of the 20th Century.

A group of women belonging to the goldsmith community underwent training in the making of silver artifacts by using the technology of silver filigree. They have started making new designs of silver artifacts that were made affordable to the common man in Karimnagar.



Telangana traditional art forms

Bidri Art

Bidri craft is yet another craft that serves as the pride of the Telangana region. Bidri art involves using an alloy of Copper and Zinc, called Gunmetal. The art is also used for making Cigars, Huqqa buttons, flower vases, jewellery boxes, and many more.

The term 'Bidriware' therefore represents the manufacture of unique metalware that is named after the region of Bidar. The Bahamani Sultans had ruled Bidar in the 14th–15th centuries. Bidriware was first practiced in ancient Persia and then it was brought to India by Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti's followers. The art form developed due to a mix of Persian and Arabic cultures and after the fusion with local style.



Telangana traditional art forms - Bidri Art

Bidriware is an eight-stage process. Those are moulding, smoothening by file, and engraving using a chisel and hammer where pure silver inlaying is also done. It is finally oxidized by making use of soil and ammonium chloride. The makers of Bidriware create designs like flowers, leaves and also geometric designs, stylized poppy plants, human figures, etc.



Telangana traditional art forms

Dying cultural art forms

Many forms of ritualistic art forms are vanishing in Telangana state. Ritualistic designs that are painted with red oxide colors clay in front of pooja rooms at homes in villages are called 'poppeda'. Tantric kinds of unique patterns are painted on the individual family suitability. This ritual is practiced by village goldsmiths only. Another form of similar design is painting in and outside of the walls of the village temple.

'Pacchabottu' is tattooing designs that exclusive for individuals. These designs are unique from region to region.

There are very few elderly people who know about these rituals are surviving. There is a need to document these practices and the designs, their history, meaning, medium, materials, methodologies for future generations.



Support Telangana traditional art forms

Support Artisans

- Traditional art forms can be supported by training the younger generation by providing them financial assistance.
- Providing livelihood support (if necessary) to the needy artisans.
- Facilitating modern equipment and tools for artisans.
- Training and helping artisans with marketing their products in India and Abroad.



Contemporary Art of Telangana

Telangana contemporary Art

Contemporary art is important to any culture due to its historical value being a witness of a specific time and era. Art promotes communication between cultures — Art is a universal language that breaks cultural barriers and gives people respect for the beliefs and traditions of others. The arts help us express our values, build bridges between cultures, and bring us together regardless of ethnicity, religion, or age. Intercultural dialogue is valuable in maintaining international peace and security, develops cross-cultural dialogue.



Contemporary Art of Telangana

Viewing Contemporary Art can be inspiring for people. It enables us to state, gain insight, and question certain socio-cultural or ideological & political developments, raising awareness, calling the world to a halt, and encouraging debate. This Art connects our country to another country, people to people.



"Metamorphosis" 2012
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