Kalamkari Painting

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Kalamkari Painting Latest News

Recently, the Prime Minister of India gifted a Kalamkari Mahabharata painting to the French President.

About Kalamkari Painting

- It is a highly popular form of **hand-painted or block-printed cotton textile and paintings,** practised in **Andhra Pradesh.**
- It came up as a textile tradition during the reign **of Qutb Shahis at Golconda** in the 16-17th century.
- "The word 'Kalam' meant pen, while 'Kari' **meant craftsmanship.**

Kalamkari Painting Techniques

- The process of creating Kalamkari begins by **soaking the fabric** in a mixture of **astringents and buffalo milk**, followed by drying it in the sun.
- The outlines of the design in **red, black, brown, and violet are drawn using a mordant,** after which the cloth is dipped in an alizarin bath.

- **Wax is then applied** to the areas that remain undyed, and the fabric is immersed in indigo dye.
- Once the wax is removed, the remaining areas are hand-painted.
- Artists use a **bamboo or date palm stick with** fine hair attached to create design contours, **applying natural dyes** extracted from roots, leaves, seeds, and minerals like iron and copper.

Kalamkari Painting Styles

- It is broadly divided into two distinct styles based on the regions where the art form **developed—Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam.**
- **Srikalahasti Kalamkari**
    - It is practised in Srikalahasti of Tirupati district and is done entirely by hand using the kalam (pen).
    - This form is characterized by freehand drawing **and intricate detailing.**
    - **Theme:** It **portrays mythological figures and themes.** religious iconography, temple architecture, and Hindu deities.
- **Machilipatnam Kalamkari**
    - It is also **known as Pedana Kalamkari,** developed in Pedana near Machilipatnam.
    - It is deeply influenced by Persian art due to the **patronage of the Mughals and the Golconda Sultanate.**
    - **Theme:** It uses **block-printing** techniques, **focusing on floral and geometric designs.**
    - Common motifs include intricate **patterns of leaves, flowers, cartwheels**, creepers, and birds like parrots and peacocks.

Source: IE

Source: https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/kalamkari/
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