

Exploring the world of

DYING ART FORMS

South Asia & Central Asia



Table of Contents

Research Scope	03
Focus Geography	04
 Bukhara Embroidery	 05
Naga Shawl Weaving	08
Baluchari Saree Weaving	11
Chikankari Embroidery	14
Madhubani Paintings	17

Research Scope



Identification of global art forms that are considered dying or near extinction



Historical origins and cultural significance of these dying art forms



Evolution of the dying art forms



Factors that contribute to the decline of these art forms

Focus Geography

South Asia & Central Asia

ART FORM

Bukhara Embroidery



Image Source:
<https://mindtheg.com/en/products/accessories/bedding/suzani-bed-runner.html>

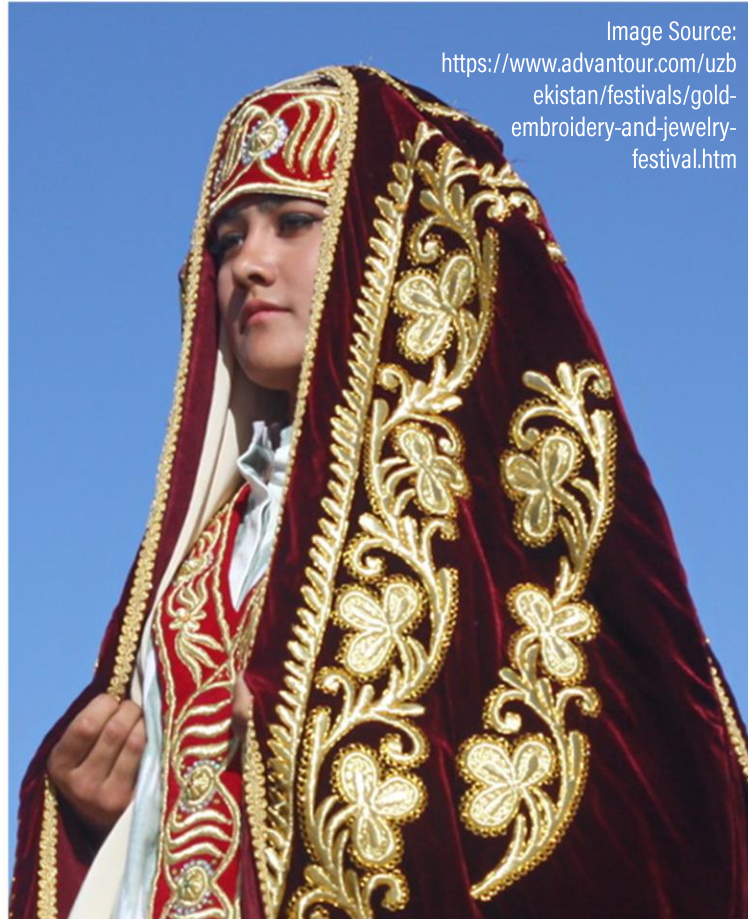


Image Source:
<https://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/festivals/gold-embroidery-and-jewelry-festival.htm>

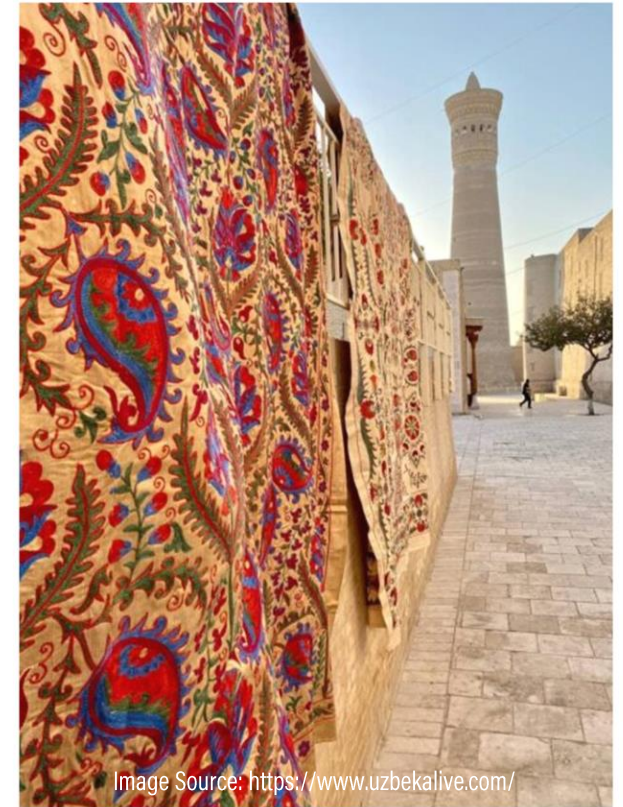


Image Source: <https://www.uzbekalive.com/>

Knowledge Hub
Exploring The World Of
Dying Art Forms



ART FORM

Bukhara Embroidery

Bukhara embroidery is a type of intricate needlework that was popular in the ancient city of Bukhara, Uzbekistan. Bukhara embroidery is characterized by its use of round flowers attached to thin lines, surrounded by floral motives. The embroidery is often made with gold threads, reflecting the wealth and opulence of Bukhara during its heyday. Bukhara embroidery is still practiced in some parts of Bukhara today and is considered a form of traditional art and craft.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Bukhara embroidery has evolved over time by incorporating diverse cultural influences from the Silk Road region. The traditional Central Asian embroidery style, known for its geometric patterns and vibrant colors, has integrated elements from neighboring countries and civilizations, including Persian, Arabic, and Turkic aesthetics. Through this amalgamation, Bukhara embroidery has developed into a unique and visually intricate art form, reflecting the rich historical and cultural exchanges along the ancient trade routes.

Image Source: <https://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/festivals/gold-embroidery-and-jewelry-festival.htm>

ART FORM

Bukhara Embroidery



What factors have contributed to the decline of this art form?

- Industrialization and mass production led to the availability of cheaper, machine-made textiles, reducing demand for handmade embroidered products.
- Socio-political changes in the region, including Soviet rule and subsequent economic shifts, disrupted traditional artisan practices and patronage.
- Changing consumer preferences and modern fashion trends shifted focus away from traditional embroidered garments.
- Limited market exposure and accessibility to global markets hindered the expansion of Bukhara embroidery's customer base.
- Migration of skilled artisans from rural to urban areas resulted in a decline in the transmission of embroidery techniques to younger generations.
- Globalization led to increased competition from other embroidery styles and imported goods, impacting the market for Bukhara embroidery.
- Lack of sufficient recognition and support for traditional crafts from governmental and non-governmental organizations further affected the survival of Bukhara embroidery..

Image Source: <https://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/festivals/gold-embroidery-and-jewelry-festival.htm>

ART FORM

Naga Shawl Weaving



Image Source: <https://www.deccanherald.com/features/woven-wonders-nagas-1990040>

Knowledge Hub
Exploring The World Of
Dying Art Forms



Image Source: <https://www.whatshot.in/kolkata/designer-naga-shawls-handcrafted-jholas--awe-inspiring-handicrafts-paharizones-resonates-the-art-in-northeast-c-19622>

ART FORM

Naga Shawl Weaving

Naga shawl weaving is a traditional form of textile weaving practiced by the Naga people, using either the loin loom or back-strap loom. Naga shawls are made of different fibers and colors and have significant cultural and ritual significance. They are made by weaving three separate pieces and then stitching them together, and are known for their distinctive patterns. Naga shawls hold significant cultural and ritual significance among the Naga people. They have a unique place in the textile history of India and are known for their vibrant colors.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Over time, Naga shawl weaving has evolved as an integral part of Naga tribes' cultural identity and social ceremonies. The art form has been practiced for centuries with techniques and designs passed down through generations. Traditionally, these shawls were woven using natural fibers and featured intricate geometric patterns, tribal motifs, and vibrant colors, reflecting the cultural heritage and beliefs of the Naga communities. However, with the advent of modernization and changes in lifestyle, the demand for traditional Naga shawls has declined, leading to a gradual decline in the craft.

Image Source: Wikipedia

ART FORM

Naga Shawl Weaving



What factors have contributed to the decline of this art form?

- Modernization: With the advent of modernization and changing lifestyles, traditional Naga shawls have faced reduced demand as people opt for modern clothing styles.
- Shift in Preferences: Younger generations often prefer Western-style clothing, leading to a decline in the traditional attire like Naga shawls.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of shawl weaving makes it less economically viable for artisans, who seek alternative livelihoods.
- Market Trends: The rise of mass-produced textiles and machine-made garments has led to a decline in the demand for handwoven Naga shawls.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans often face challenges in accessing wider markets for their shawls, hindering their ability to sustain the craft economically.
- Cultural Shifts: As traditional practices and rituals change with time, the significance of wearing Naga shawls in social ceremonies and daily life has diminished.
- Lack of Recognition: The art form may not have received adequate recognition and support in preserving its cultural heritage, affecting its sustainability.

ART FORM

Baluchari Saree Weaving



Image Source: <https://gaatha.com/baluchari-saree-bangal/>



Image Source: <http://www.abhijna-emuseum.com/exhibition/interwoven-tales-the-rich-tradition-of-baluchari-sari-from-west-bengal/>

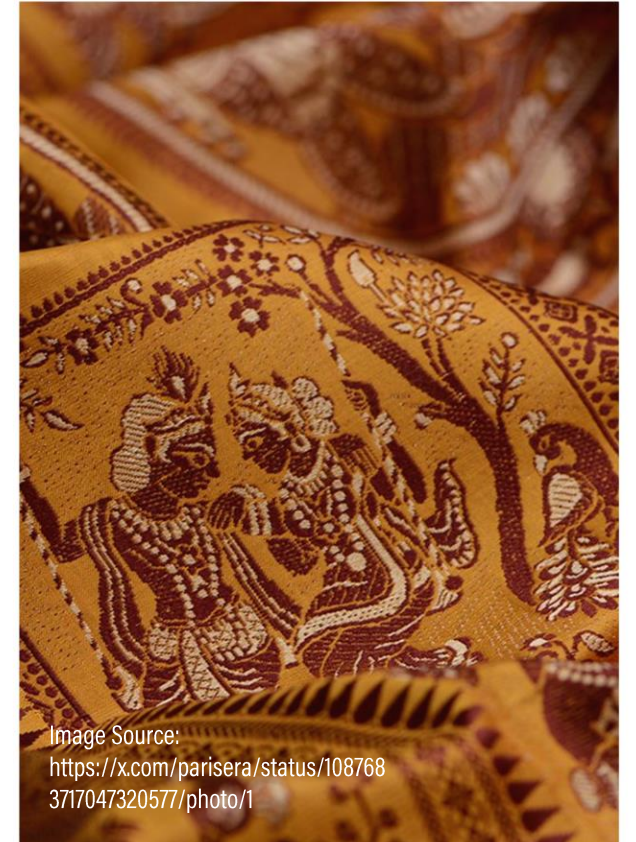


Image Source:
<https://x.com/parisera/status/1087683717047320577/photo/1>

Knowledge Hub
Exploring The World Of
Dying Art Forms



ART FORM

Baluchari Saree Weaving

Baluchari saree is a traditional hand-woven saree made using silk threads. It originated in the small village of Baluchar in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, India. Baluchari sarees are known for their elaborate and intricate designs woven into the border and pallu of the saree, which often depict scenes from Indian mythology. The weaving technique used to make these sarees is called jacquard weaving. It is a time-consuming process that requires highly skilled craftsmanship and can take up to a week to weave a single saree.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating in Bengal during the 18th century, Baluchari sarees were handwoven with intricate designs depicting mythological stories and scenes. Initially, these sarees were exclusively worn by aristocratic women during special occasions and festivals. However, with changing fashion trends and social dynamics, the demand for Baluchari sarees declined. To adapt to modern preferences, weavers started experimenting with contemporary motifs and lighter fabrics while preserving the essence of the art form. Today, efforts are being made to promote Baluchari sarees among a wider audience, supporting traditional weavers and preserving this unique craft's cultural heritage.

Image Source: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/lifestyle/how-the-bishnupur-baluchari-sari-weaving-tradition-survived-bengals-tumultuous-history/cid/1855543>

ART FORM

Baluchari Saree Weaving



Image Source: <https://sabrangindia.in/rich-heritage-but-poor-plight-of-bishnupurs-baluchari-silk-artisans/>

What factors have contributed to the decline of this art form?

- Changing Fashion Trends: As fashion preferences evolved, traditional handwoven sarees faced competition from modern and lightweight fabrics, impacting their demand.
- Limited Patronage: With the decline of royal patronage and the aristocracy's waning influence, the demand for Baluchari sarees among the elite decreased.
- Industrialization: The rise of mechanized textile production led to the mass production of sarees at lower costs, making handwoven Baluchari sarees less economically viable.
- Time-Consuming Process: Handweaving Baluchari sarees is a labor-intensive process, which made it challenging for weavers to compete with faster and more cost-effective production methods.
- Limited Market Access: Weavers faced challenges in accessing wider markets due to limited distribution networks and competition from mass-produced sarees.
- Lack of Skills Transfer: The decline in skilled weavers and the passing of traditional knowledge to the next generation further contributed to the diminishing practice of Baluchari saree weaving.
- Cultural Shifts: As traditional practices and customs changed over time, the demand for Baluchari sarees in daily wear and special occasions reduced.

ART FORM

Chikankari Embroidery



Image Source: Shab
Embroideryish Channel
(YouTube)



Image Source:
<https://www.kusuma.co.in/products>



Image Source:
<https://aham.store/products>

Knowledge Hub
Exploring The World Of
Dying Art Forms



ART FORM

Chikankari Embroidery

Chikankari embroidery is a traditional embroidery style from Lucknow, with roots tracing back to the Mughal era in the 16th century. It was introduced by the Mughal Empress Nur Jehan and has become a part of Lucknow's rich cultural heritage. It involves intricate needlework with white cotton thread on fine white cotton material. The embroidery technique incorporates approximately 36 different stitching techniques, including Tepchi, Bakhiya, and Phanda. Chikankari embroidery is known for its intricacy and elegance and is a highly skilled craft that requires patience and time to create.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating in Lucknow during the Mughal era, Chikankari was initially crafted exclusively for royalty and nobility. The embroidery technique involved intricate white threadwork on fine fabrics like muslin and silk. As India went through various historical periods, Chikankari adapted to changing fashion trends and tastes. With the decline of royal patronage, the craft expanded its reach to a broader audience. Today, Chikankari has evolved to incorporate various coloured threads, modern designs, and diverse fabric choices, while still retaining its delicate charm. The craft continues to be celebrated and preserved as an integral part of India's rich textile heritage.

Image Source: <https://www.dsourc.in/resource/chikankari-embroidery-lucknow-ii/introduction>

ART FORM

Chikankari Embroidery



Image Source: Wikipedia

What factors have contributed to the decline of this art form?

- Decline of Royal Patronage: With the decline of royal courts and the aristocracy's influence, the demand for exclusive Chikankari embroidery among the elite decreased.
- Industrialization: The rise of mechanized textile production led to the mass production of embroidered fabrics at lower costs, making handcrafted Chikankari less economically viable.
- Changing Fashion Trends: As fashion preferences evolved, traditional hand-embroidered fabrics faced competition from modern and machine-produced textiles.
- Availability of Alternatives: Consumers' preference for machine-made embroidered fabrics and cheaper alternatives impacted the demand for labor-intensive Chikankari.
- Lack of Skill Transfer: The decline in skilled artisans and the passing of traditional knowledge to the next generation further contributed to the diminishing practice of Chikankari embroidery.
- Limited Market Access: Weavers faced challenges in accessing wider markets and maintaining steady demand for their intricate and time-consuming craft.
- Cultural Shifts: As traditional clothing styles evolved, the demand for Chikankari embroidery in daily wear and special occasions shifted.

ART FORM

Madhubani Paintings



Image Source: <https://www.india-tours.com/blog/the-traditional-art-of-madhubani.html>

ART FORM

Madhubani Paintings

Madhubani paintings, also known as Mithila paintings, are a style of traditional painting that originated in the Mithila region of India and Nepal. They are characterized by their complex geometric patterns and bright colors and are usually created using natural dyes and pigments. Madhubani paintings often depict religious and mythological themes and are created using a technique that involves precise brushwork and repeated patterns. The art form has a long history and is considered an important part of the cultural heritage of Bihar.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Madhubani paintings were originally created by women to decorate the walls of their homes during special occasions and festivals. With the passage of time, these vibrant paintings expanded beyond household decorations and began to be painted on paper and canvas, reaching a wider audience. The art form transitioned from being purely a community tradition to a commercialized craft, leading to various adaptations and innovations in designs and themes. Today, Madhubani paintings are celebrated globally for their intricate patterns, vivid colors, and representation of cultural stories, making them a significant part of India's artistic heritage.



ART FORM

Madhubani Paintings

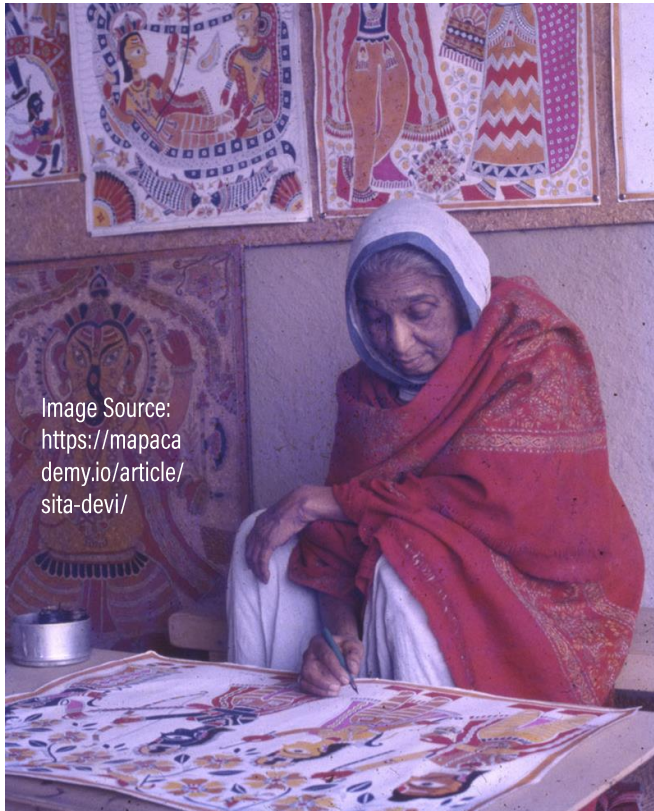


Image Source:
<https://mapacademy.io/article/sita-devi/>

What factors have contributed to the decline of this art form?

- Modernization: With changing lifestyles and urbanization, traditional Madhubani wall paintings faced reduced demand as people moved away from traditional home decorations.
- Commercialization: As Madhubani paintings became a commercialized craft, the focus shifted from preserving its cultural significance to catering to market trends, leading to dilution in authenticity.
- Mass Production: The rise of machine-produced replicas and mass-produced imitations of Madhubani paintings reduced the value and demand for authentic handcrafted artworks.
- Lack of Institutional Support: Historically, there has been limited institutional support or recognition for Madhubani artists, hindering its growth and preservation.
- Limited Market Access: The lack of exposure and limited access to national and international markets made it difficult for Madhubani artists to sustain their livelihoods.
- Decline in Patronage: As the traditional system of patronage diminished, artists faced challenges in finding support and incentives to continue their craft.
- Shifting Art Forms: The introduction of new art forms and mediums resulted in competition for artists' time and attention, impacting their commitment to Madhubani painting.



Thank You

www.savedyingarts.com