

Exploring the world of

DYING ART FORMS

South East Asia & APAC



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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 East Asia & APAC

ART FORM

Lombok Pottery



Image Source: <https://www.carousell.sg/p/handmade-lombok-pottery-1073050041/>



Image Source:
<https://community.snapwire.co/photo/detail/5ec56a6d47fb3f877fc6aee4>

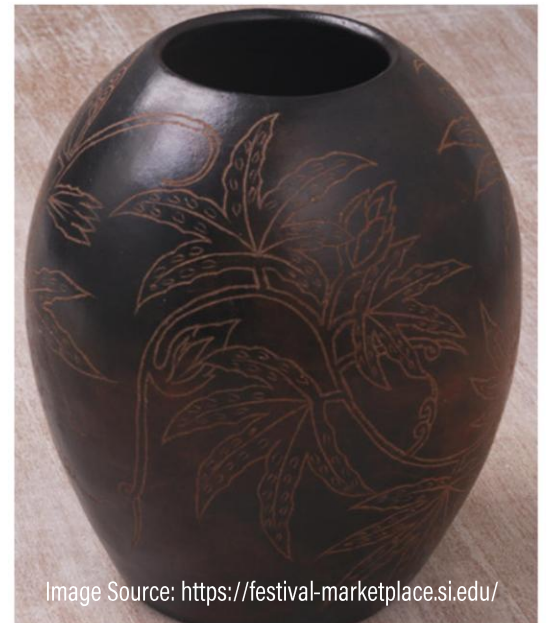


Image Source: <https://festival-marketplace.si.edu/>

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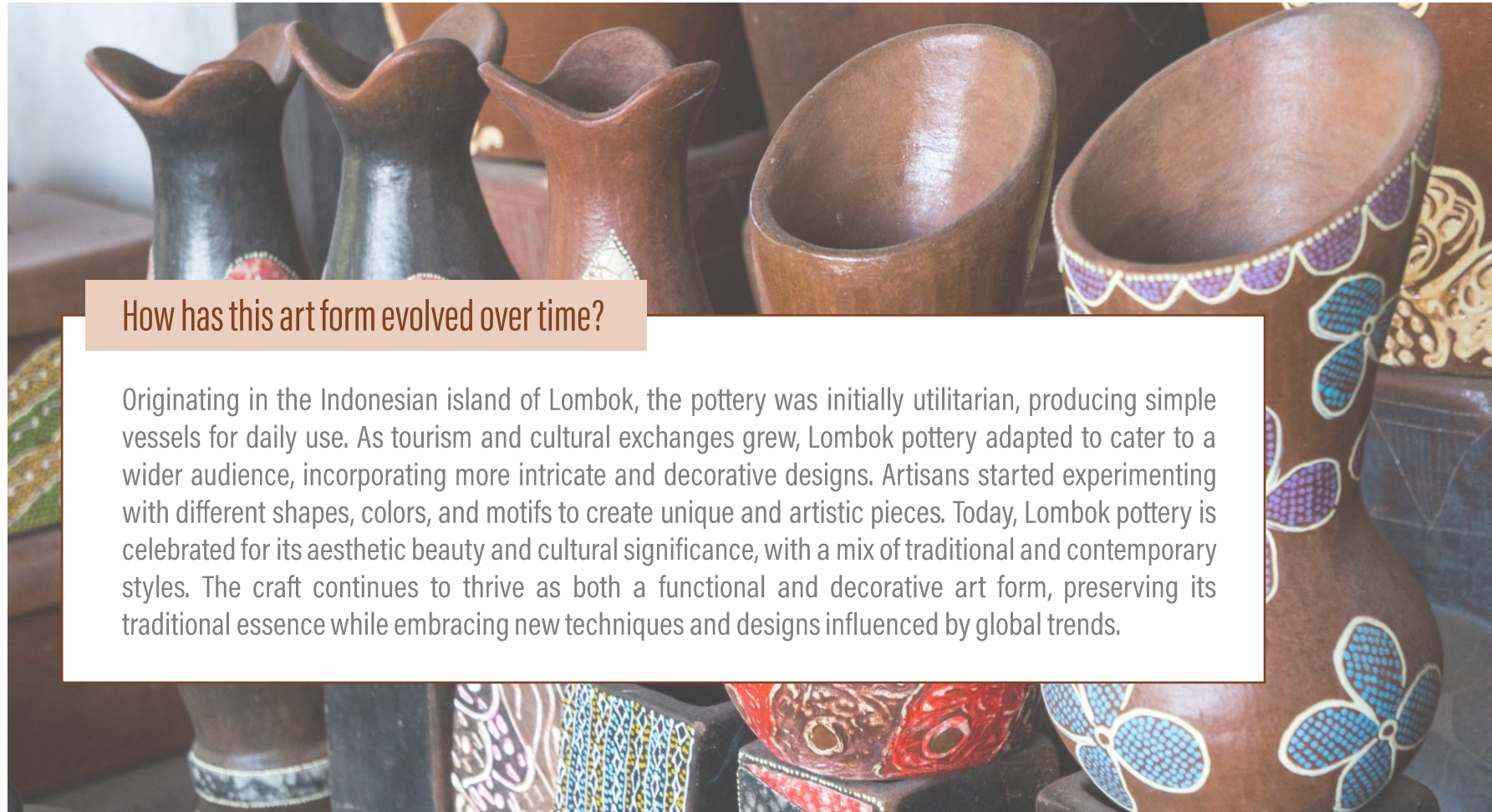
ART FORM

Lombok Pottery

Lombok pottery is a traditional craft that has been practiced for generations by the people of Lombok, an Indonesian island located east of Bali. The island is home to several villages that are known for their pottery production, including Penujak and Banyumulek. Lombok pottery is made by processing clay into items such as vases, plates, and other household items. The pottery is often decorated with intricate designs that reflect the cultural heritage of the people of Lombok. Visitors to the island can find Lombok pottery at local markets and stores and may even be able to watch skilled artisans at work in the villages where the pottery is made.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating in the Indonesian island of Lombok, the pottery was initially utilitarian, producing simple vessels for daily use. As tourism and cultural exchanges grew, Lombok pottery adapted to cater to a wider audience, incorporating more intricate and decorative designs. Artisans started experimenting with different shapes, colors, and motifs to create unique and artistic pieces. Today, Lombok pottery is celebrated for its aesthetic beauty and cultural significance, with a mix of traditional and contemporary styles. The craft continues to thrive as both a functional and decorative art form, preserving its traditional essence while embracing new techniques and designs influenced by global trends.



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Lombok Pottery



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

- **Economic Pressures:** Economic challenges within Lombok have led many practicing artisans to abandon traditional crafts in favor of more viable employment opportunities in neighbouring islands of Indonesia. Also, the practice has become limited to household traditions instead of commerce.
- **Contemporary Lifestyles:** Additionally, the influx of mass-produced pottery from other countries has diminished the market for handcrafted items. Furthermore, changing lifestyles in 21st century and urbanization have shifted focus away from traditional crafts.
- **Limited Market Channels:** The lack of online sales channels until recently has also restricted the reach of local artisans, limiting their income potential. Sales has typically happened through visiting tourists, who purchase pottery items for showpieces instead of daily use, limiting larger volume of sales which can help the craft survive as a viable profession.

ART FORM

Saa Paper Umbrella Making



Image Source: <https://abreathoffreshair-mary.blogspot.com/2011/12/umbrellas-part-ii.html>



Image Source: <https://livingoutsideofthebox.com/2013/04/01/bo-sang-umbrella-festival/>

ART FORM

Saa Paper Umbrella Making

Saa paper umbrella making is a traditional handicraft in Thailand that involves creating handmade umbrellas using Saa paper, which is made from the bark of the mulberry tree. The umbrella-making process involves treating the mulberry bark to soften it, then grinding and boiling it to create a fine pulp which is used to make the paper. The paper is then cut and formed into the shape of the umbrella, which is supported by a bamboo frame. The umbrellas are often decorated with intricate designs and patterns that are painted onto the paper by skilled artists. The town of Bo Sang, near Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, is particularly well-known for its Saa paper umbrella making heritage and hosts an annual Umbrella Festival that showcases the work of local artists and craftsmen.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Saa paper umbrella making has evolved over time in both form and practice. Originating in Thailand, the craft was traditionally utilitarian, creating umbrellas for protection against the sun and rain. As tourism and cultural exchanges grew, Saa paper umbrella making adapted to cater to a wider audience, becoming more intricate and decorative. Artisans started incorporating vibrant colors, intricate designs, and traditional motifs into the umbrellas. With global interest in handcrafted items, Saa paper umbrellas gained popularity as souvenirs and art pieces. Today, the craft continues to be celebrated for its aesthetic beauty and cultural significance, with a mix of traditional and contemporary styles.

ART FORM

Saa Paper Umbrella Making



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

- Competition from Modern Materials: The availability of cheaper and more durable synthetic umbrellas reduced the demand for traditional Saa paper umbrellas.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans faced challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted umbrellas, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Changing Consumer Preferences: As lifestyles evolved, the demand for traditional Saa paper umbrellas faced reduced interest.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional umbrella-making skills to the next generation faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled artisans.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of Saa paper umbrella making made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with mass-produced alternatives.
- Environmental Concerns: Sustainable sources for Saa paper production became scarce, affecting traditional practices.

ART FORM

Songket Weaving



Image Source: <https://indonesiaexpat.id/>



Image Source: <https://ghorpany.com/inspiration/songket>



Image Source: <https://steemit.com/steem-cartoon/@kymio/traditional-songket-painting>

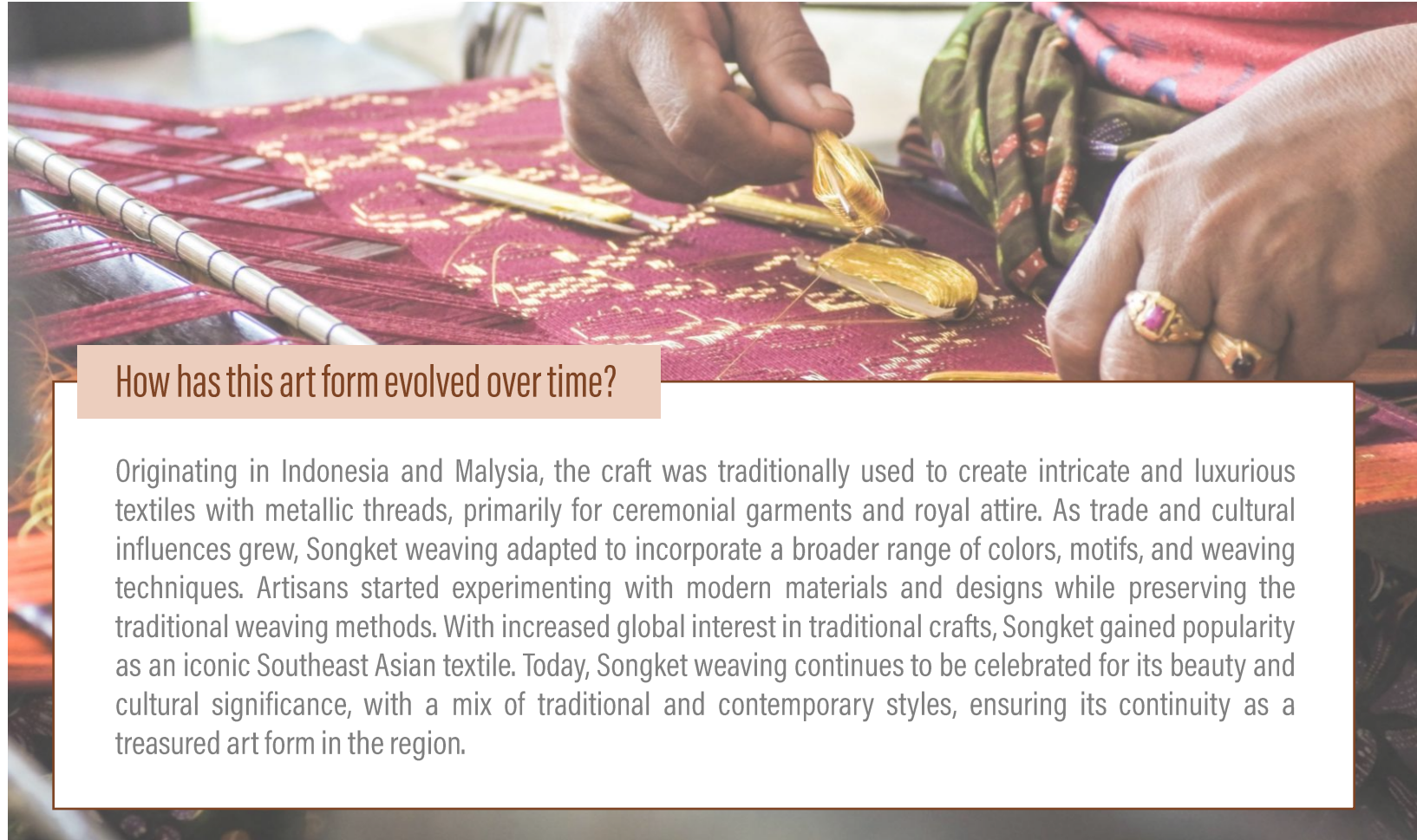
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ART FORM

Songket Weaving

Songket weaving is a traditional technique used to create decorative fabrics, particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia. The process involves inserting gold or silver thread in between the base threads to create intricate patterns and designs. Songket weaving is traditionally done by young girls and older women as a part-time job in between daily domestic chores. It is a painstaking and tedious process that requires a great deal of concentration, and can take several months to complete a single piece of fabric. The tradition of songket weaving is an important element of the cultural heritage of the region. In recent years, efforts have been made to revitalize the craft and promote its continued preservation.



How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating in Indonesia and Malaysia, the craft was traditionally used to create intricate and luxurious textiles with metallic threads, primarily for ceremonial garments and royal attire. As trade and cultural influences grew, Songket weaving adapted to incorporate a broader range of colors, motifs, and weaving techniques. Artisans started experimenting with modern materials and designs while preserving the traditional weaving methods. With increased global interest in traditional crafts, Songket gained popularity as an iconic Southeast Asian textile. Today, Songket weaving continues to be celebrated for its beauty and cultural significance, with a mix of traditional and contemporary styles, ensuring its continuity as a treasured art form in the region.

ART FORM Songket Weaving



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

- Industrialization: The rise of mass-produced textiles reduced the demand for handwoven Songket.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans faced challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted Songket, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Changing Consumer Preferences: As fashion trends evolved, the demand for traditional Songket faced reduced interest.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional weaving skills to the next generation faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled artisans.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of Songket weaving made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Environmental Concerns: Sustainable sources for traditional materials, such as metallic threads and natural dyes, became scarce, affecting production practices.

ART FORM

Cham Pottery

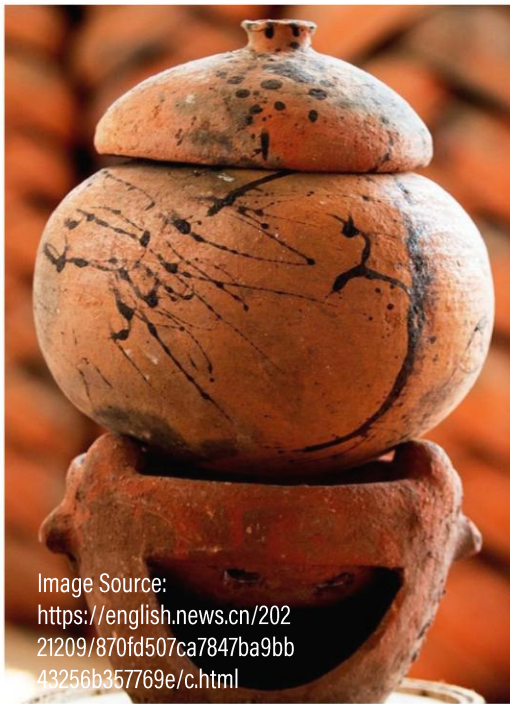


Image Source:
<https://english.news.cn/20221209/870fd507ca7847ba9bb43256b357769e/c.html>



Image Source: UNESCO



Image Source:
<https://www.vietvisiontravel.com/post/cham-pottery-traditional-art-central-vietnam/>

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Image Source: <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/arts/age-old-cham-pottery-tradition-vanishing-without-support-unesco-4542283.html>

ART FORM

Cham Pottery

Cham pottery is a traditional form of pottery making originating from the Cham people, an ethnic minority group found in both Vietnam and Cambodia. The pottery is made by women using techniques passed down through generations, and the products on offer include household utensils, religious objects, and fine art works. Cham pottery can be found in a range of shapes and sizes, including jars, pots, trays, vases and water jugs. One of the most well-known Cham pottery villages is Bau Truc, which is located in Ninh Thuan province in Vietnam. The art of Cham pottery making is an important cultural heritage of the Cham people and is considered an intangible heritage in Vietnam.

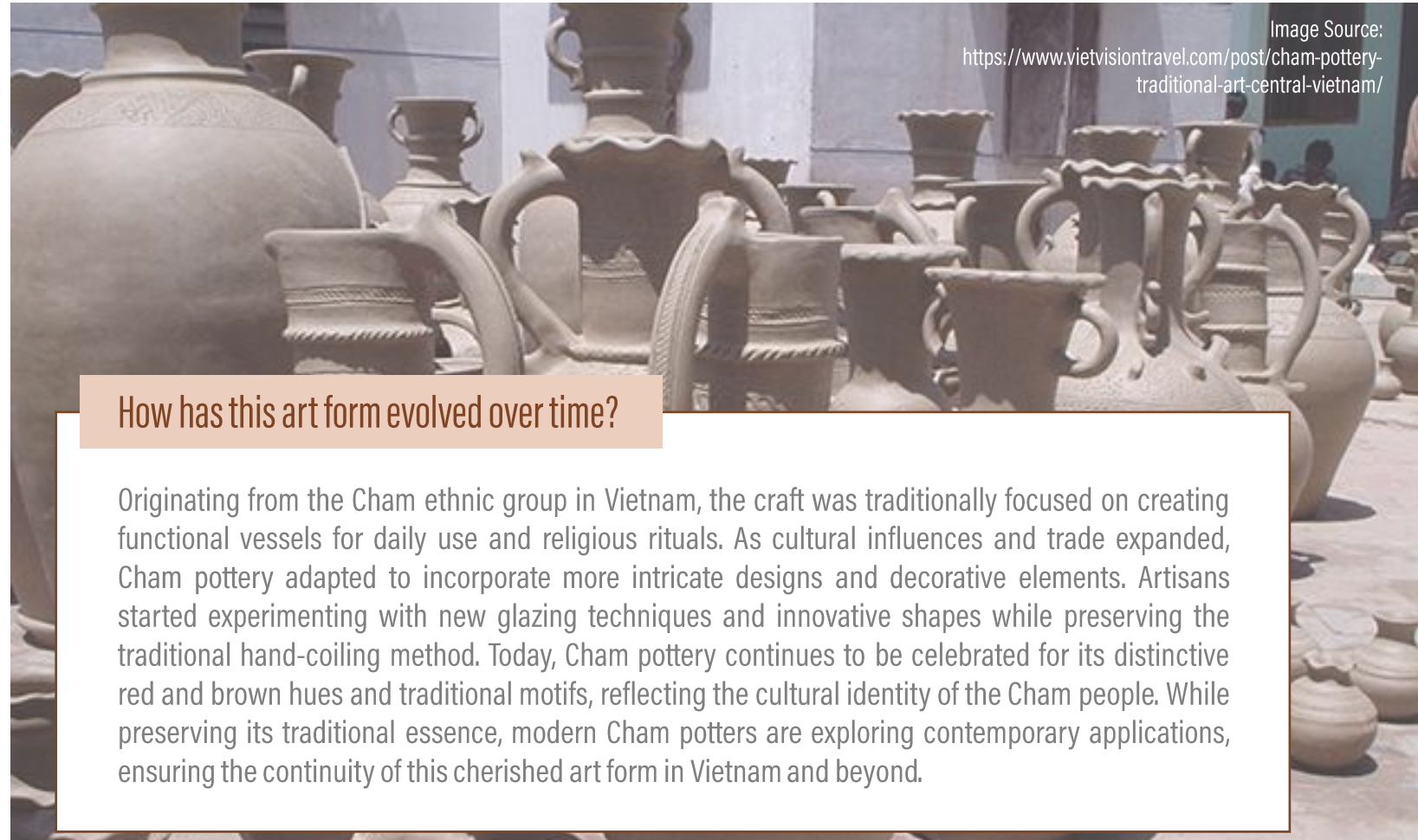


Image Source:
<https://www.vietvisiontravel.com/post/cham-pottery-traditional-art-central-vietnam/>

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating from the Cham ethnic group in Vietnam, the craft was traditionally focused on creating functional vessels for daily use and religious rituals. As cultural influences and trade expanded, Cham pottery adapted to incorporate more intricate designs and decorative elements. Artisans started experimenting with new glazing techniques and innovative shapes while preserving the traditional hand-coiling method. Today, Cham pottery continues to be celebrated for its distinctive red and brown hues and traditional motifs, reflecting the cultural identity of the Cham people. While preserving its traditional essence, modern Cham potters are exploring contemporary applications, ensuring the continuity of this cherished art form in Vietnam and beyond.

ART FORM

Cham Pottery



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

- Modernization: As societies modernized, demand shifted towards mass-produced ceramics, reducing the demand for traditional Cham pottery.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans faced challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted pottery, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Changing Consumer Preferences: As lifestyles evolved, the demand for traditional Cham pottery faced reduced interest.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional pottery-making skills to the next generation faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled Cham potters.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of pottery-making made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Environmental Concerns: Sustainable clay sources for pottery production became scarce, affecting traditional practices.

ART FORM

Kamcheng Peranakan Porcelain



Image Source: Wikimedia Commons



Image Source: <https://www.carousell.sg/>

ART FORM

Kamcheng Peranakan Porcelain

Kamcheng Peranakan porcelain refers to covered ceramic vessels or jars that are part of the Peranakan culture, a mix of Chinese and Malay cultures found mainly in Southeast Asia. Kamcheng jars are often used for storing food and water, and are known for their intricate designs and vibrant colors. Peranakan porcelain is considered a unique blend of Chinese and European pottery styles, with a focus on bold colors and intricate designs. The production of Peranakan porcelain largely ended in the mid-20th century, but there are still many examples of these beautiful pieces of cultural heritage available for purchase from antique stores and collectors.



Image Source:
<https://www.mnp.com.my/2017/10/15/a-few-hundred-years-of-peranakan-ceramics-history-reaping-investment-returns-now/>

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating from the Peranakan community in Malaysia and Singapore, the porcelain ware was initially inspired by Chinese ceramics but adapted to incorporate local cultural elements. As trade and cultural exchanges grew, Kamcheng porcelain production embraced a broader range of colors, motifs, and designs. Artisans started experimenting with innovative shapes and intricate hand-painted decorations, reflecting the unique blend of Chinese and Malay influences. Today, Kamcheng Peranakan porcelain continues to be celebrated for its vibrant and intricate patterns, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the Peranakan community.

ART FORM

Kamcheng Peranakan Porcelain



Image Source: <https://www.mccy.gov.sg/KAYA/Heritage/One-Mans-Peranakan-Pride-Hidden-In-The-Heart-of-Joo-Chiat>

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

- Changing Lifestyles: Modern lifestyles have shifted consumer preferences towards mass-produced and contemporary household items, reducing the demand for traditional Peranakan porcelain.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans faced challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted porcelain, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional porcelain-making skills to the next generation faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled Peranakan porcelain artisans.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of porcelain-making made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Limited Patronage: The decline of traditional patronage and appreciation for Peranakan porcelain impacted its continuation as an important craft.

ART FORM

T'nalak Weaving



Image Source:
<https://thehappytrip.com/2017/07/tnalak-festival-travel-guide/>



Image Source: <https://www.soxph.com/2016/03/tnalak-weaving-demonstration.html>



Image Source: <https://mirror.pia.gov.ph/features/2023/07/21/tnalak-festival-weaving-traditions-bridging-history-and-cultural-resilience>

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T'nalak Weaving

T'nalak weaving is a traditional weaving technique of the T'boli people, an indigenous group in the southern Philippines. The T'nalak cloth is woven exclusively by women using abaca fibers, and the patterns on the cloth are thought to be inspired by the weavers' dreams. This intricate weaving process involves resist-dye (ikat) technique, in which the fibers are dyed before being woven into the cloth. The cloth is highly prized for its complex and intricate patterns, which are created using natural dyes and a backstrap loom. The Lang Dulay Weaving Center is one of the main locations where T'nalak weaving is still practiced today and offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the weaving process and purchase textiles.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating from the T'boli tribe in the Philippines, T'nalak is a traditional art form that involves weaving abaca fibers into intricate patterns using a backstrap loom. Originally used as a sacred textile for important ceremonies and rituals, T'nalak has adapted to cater to a wider audience, including the tourism market. While preserving its traditional techniques and designs, contemporary T'nalak weavers are exploring innovative color combinations and introducing modern motifs. Efforts to pass down weaving skills and preserve cultural heritage ensure the continuity of this cherished art form, reflecting the rich cultural identity and artistic expression of the T'boli people.

Image Source: <https://www.thetextileatlas.com/craft-stories/tnalak-weaving-philippines>

ART FORM T'nalak Weaving



Image Source: <https://tastecollection.com/blogs/pearl-farm-beach-resort/t-nalak-weave-beyond-the-dream-weavers-cloth>

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

- Limited Market Access: Artisans faced challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted T'nalak textiles, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Changing Lifestyles: Modernization and urbanization have shifted consumer preferences towards mass-produced textiles, reducing the demand for traditional T'nalak.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional weaving skills to the next generation faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled T'nalak weavers.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of weaving made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Environmental Concerns: Sustainable sources for abaca fibers, the primary material used in T'nalak weaving, became scarce, affecting production practices.

ART FORM

Nonya Kebaya Embroidery



Image Source: Adrian Cheah



Image Source:
<https://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/nyonya-embroidery-decline-malaysias-best-symbol-multicultural-harmony-434498>

ART FORM

Nonya Kebaya Embroidery

Nonya Kebaya embroidery is a decorative embroidery that is traditionally found on the Nonya Kebaya, a traditional costume of the Peranakan Chinese in Southeast Asia. The embroidery is typically done on the edges of the kebaya top using small, intricate floral motifs using silk or cotton thread. Nonya Kebaya embroidery is known for its bright and bold colors and complex designs, often featuring floral and bird motifs. The sulam embroidery was initially done primarily by hand, but with modernization, machine-aid has become more popular. Examples of Nonya Kebaya embroidery can be found in various museums, as well as high-end fashion outlets and shops that specialize in traditional cultural wear.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating from the Peranakan communities in Malaysia and Singapore, the Nonya Kebaya is a traditional blouse worn by women. Initially inspired by Javanese and Chinese designs, Nonya Kebaya embroidery has adapted to incorporate local cultural elements and European influences. As trade and cultural exchanges grew, embroidery techniques and patterns evolved to reflect the changing tastes and fashion trends. Today, Nonya Kebaya embroidery continues to be celebrated for its intricate and colorful designs, reflecting the unique blend of cultural influences in the Peranakan community.

ART FORM

Nonya Kebaya Embroidery



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

- Changing Fashion Trends: Modernization and globalization have led to a shift in fashion preferences, reducing the demand for traditional Nonya Kebaya garments.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans faced challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted Nonya Kebaya embroidery, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional embroidery skills to the next generation faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled artisans.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of embroidery made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Limited Patronage: The decline of traditional patronage for Nonya Kebaya garments and cultural changes have impacted the continuation of this art form.

ART FORM

Kain Sarong Weaving



ART FORM

Kain Sarong Weaving

Kain Sarong weaving is a traditional textile craft prevalent in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Artisans skillfully create sarongs, rectangular pieces of cloth worn as wrap-around skirts, using a handloom and natural fibers like cotton or silk. The weaving process involves intricate patterns and designs, often reflecting the cultural identity and heritage of the region. Each region has its unique motifs and color schemes, making Kain Sarongs a symbol of tradition and identity. Over time, this art form has faced challenges due to modernization, changing fashion trends, and limited market access, leading to a decline in traditional weavers.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Initially a traditional craft of creating rectangular cloth pieces worn as wrap-around skirts, it has adapted to changing cultural influences and fashion trends. Artisans have incorporated modern designs and colors while preserving traditional motifs that reflect the cultural heritage of the region. The weaving techniques have seen innovation, incorporating various natural fibers like cotton and silk. Moreover, contemporary weavers have explored creative patterns to cater to a wider audience, including tourists and the global market. Despite facing challenges, Kain Sarong weaving continues to be celebrated as a cherished art form, showcasing the rich cultural identity and artistic expression of Southeast Asian communities.

Image Source: <https://www.travelfoodfashion.com/indonesian-skirt-famous-indonesian-sarong/>

ART FORM

Kain Sarong Weaving



Image Source: <https://genevieduggan.com/savu-ceremonial-textiles/womens-sarongs/>

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

- Modernization: The advent of mass-produced clothing and western fashion has reduced the demand for traditional handwoven sarongs.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans face challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted sarongs, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- Changing Fashion Trends: Shifting fashion preferences have led to reduced demand for traditional sarongs among younger generations.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional weaving skills to the next generation has faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled Kain Sarong weavers.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of weaving made it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Environmental Concerns: Sustainable sources for natural fibers used in Kain Sarong weaving have become scarce, affecting production practices.

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Krajang Reed Weaving



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Krajang Reed Weaving

Krajang Reed Weaving is a traditional craft practiced in Thailand, particularly among the Krajang community in the southern region. The craft involves weaving reeds or dried leaves of the Krajang palm tree into intricate mats, baskets, and other household items. The process begins with the collection of Krajang palm leaves, which are then dried, split into thin strips, and dyed with natural colors. Skilled artisans weave these strips into various patterns and shapes using simple hand tools and techniques passed down through generations. However, with changing lifestyles and the availability of mass-produced alternatives, the craft is facing challenges, leading to a decline in skilled weavers.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Initially, the craft focused on creating functional items like mats and baskets for daily use. However, as cultural influences and trade expanded, Krajang Reed Weaving adapted to incorporate more intricate patterns and designs, reflecting the changing tastes and demands. Artisans started experimenting with innovative shapes and weaving techniques while preserving the traditional handwoven approach. While the craft remains rooted in its cultural heritage, contemporary weavers are exploring new color combinations and introducing modern motifs to appeal to a wider audience. Efforts to pass down weaving skills and preserve cultural heritage ensure the continuation of this cherished art form, reflecting the rich cultural identity of the Krajang community in Thailand.

Image Source: <https://www.travelfoodfashion.com/indonesian-skirt-famous-indonesian-sarong/>

ART FORM

Krajang Reed Weaving



Image Source: <https://genevieduggan.com/savu-ceremonial-textiles/womens-sarongs/>

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

- Modernization: With the availability of cheaper and mass-produced alternatives, demand for traditional handwoven Krajang reed products has decreased.
- Limited Market Access: Artisans face challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted Krajang reed items, impacting the economic sustainability of the craft.
- Changing Lifestyles: As lifestyles evolve, the demand for traditional Krajang reed products has decreased among younger generations.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional weaving skills to the next generation has faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled Krajang reed weavers.
- Economic Viability: The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of reed weaving makes it economically challenging for artisans to compete with cheaper alternatives.
- Environmental Concerns: Limited availability of Krajang palm leaves and sustainable sourcing affects production practices.

ART FORM

Sumi-e Ink Making

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Image Source: https://wabunka-lux.jp/experiences/en_rimpa-sumie-1/

ART FORM

Sumi-e Ink Making

Sumi-e ink is a type of black ink used in Japanese calligraphy and ink wash painting. It is made by combining soot with animal glue and other additives, then shaping the mixture into small sticks. To use the ink, a stick of Sumi-e ink is rubbed on an inkstone with water to produce ink for writing or painting. Sumi-e ink craftsmen make ink when the temperature and humidity are in balance. From autumn to early spring, the air is dry and cold, which is the best time to make Sumi ink.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Originating in China and later adopted in Japan, Sumi-e ink was traditionally made from soot collected from burned pine wood and combined with animal glue or other binding agents. As the art form spread to different regions and cultures, the ink-making process diversified. In modern times, synthetic alternatives to traditional ingredients have been introduced to meet growing demand. Additionally, advancements in technology and trade have made it easier to access a wider range of materials for ink making. While contemporary artists may use commercial ink, some still adhere to traditional methods, preserving the essence of this ancient art form and its cultural significance in East Asian painting and calligraphy.

Image Source: <https://www.seattleartistleague.com/2021/02/03/stuff-you-didnt-know-about-sumi/>

ART FORM

Sumi-e Ink Making



Image Source:
<https://www.kansaiscene.com/2021/02/a-legacy-in-ink/>

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

- **Modernization:** The availability of commercial and synthetic ink alternatives has reduced the demand for traditional Sumi-e ink.
- **Limited Market Access:** Artisans face challenges in accessing wider markets for their handcrafted ink, impacting the economic viability of the craft.
- **Skill Transfer:** The passing of traditional ink-making techniques to the next generation has faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled artisans.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Sustainable sourcing of traditional ingredients, like soot from burned pine wood, has become challenging.
- **Changing Art Practices:** With the advent of digital art tools, traditional Sumi-e ink painting practices have faced competition in contemporary art scenes.

ART FORM

Kesi Silk Weaving



Image Source: <https://nazmiyalantiquerugs.com/blog/kesi-chinese-tapestry/>



Image Source: <https://nazmiyalantiquerugs.com/blog/kesi-chinese-tapestry/>

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Image Source:
<https://resources.made-in-china.com/article/culture-life/kmnxjQTMRIJC/Cut-Silk/>



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

ART FORM

Kesi Silk Weaving

Kesi silk weaving is a traditional Chinese silk tapestry-making method. The technique involves weaving strands of silk thread together to create a pictorial design. The name "kesi" means "cut silk" in Chinese, referring to the technique of weaving together the cut silk threads. Kesi silk weaving is highly admired for its lightness and clarity of pattern. Known for its fine and detailed craftsmanship, Kesi, also called "Song Brocade," involves weaving silk threads of various colors to create highly intricate and pictorial designs. Artisans use a draw loom to meticulously control each thread, creating patterns that resemble paintings. Today, kesi silk weaving is considered a rare traditional craft in China. It is recognized as an intangible cultural heritage by the Chinese government, and there are ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the art form.

How has this art form evolved over time?

Initially used for creating luxurious textiles and court garments during ancient Chinese dynasties, the technique has adapted to suit changing tastes and demands. While traditional Kesi weaving involved labor-intensive handwork on drawlooms, modern techniques have incorporated mechanization to enhance efficiency. Moreover, contemporary artists have experimented with new color combinations and design motifs, incorporating modern influences while preserving the art's traditional intricacy. Despite facing challenges, the craft continues to be celebrated for its exquisite silk masterpieces, reflecting the cultural heritage and artistic legacy of China.

Image Source: <https://nazmiyalantiquerugs.com/blog/kesi-chinese-tapestry/>

ART FORM

Kesi Silk Weaving



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

- Labor-Intensive Process: The time-consuming and intricate nature of Kesi silk weaving makes it economically challenging to compete with mass-produced textiles.
- Changing Demand: Modern fashion trends and preferences have shifted towards lighter and more versatile fabrics, reducing the demand for traditional Kesi silk garments.
- Skill Transfer: The passing of traditional weaving skills to the next generation has faced challenges, leading to a decline in skilled Kesi silk weavers.
- Availability of Alternatives: With the advent of modern textile technologies, cheaper and easier-to-produce silk fabrics have become more accessible, reducing demand for Kesi silk.
- Market Competition: The luxury and craftsmanship associated with Kesi silk have limited its market reach and appeal to a wider audience.
- Cost: The high cost of producing Kesi silk textiles makes it less affordable for many consumers.



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