Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

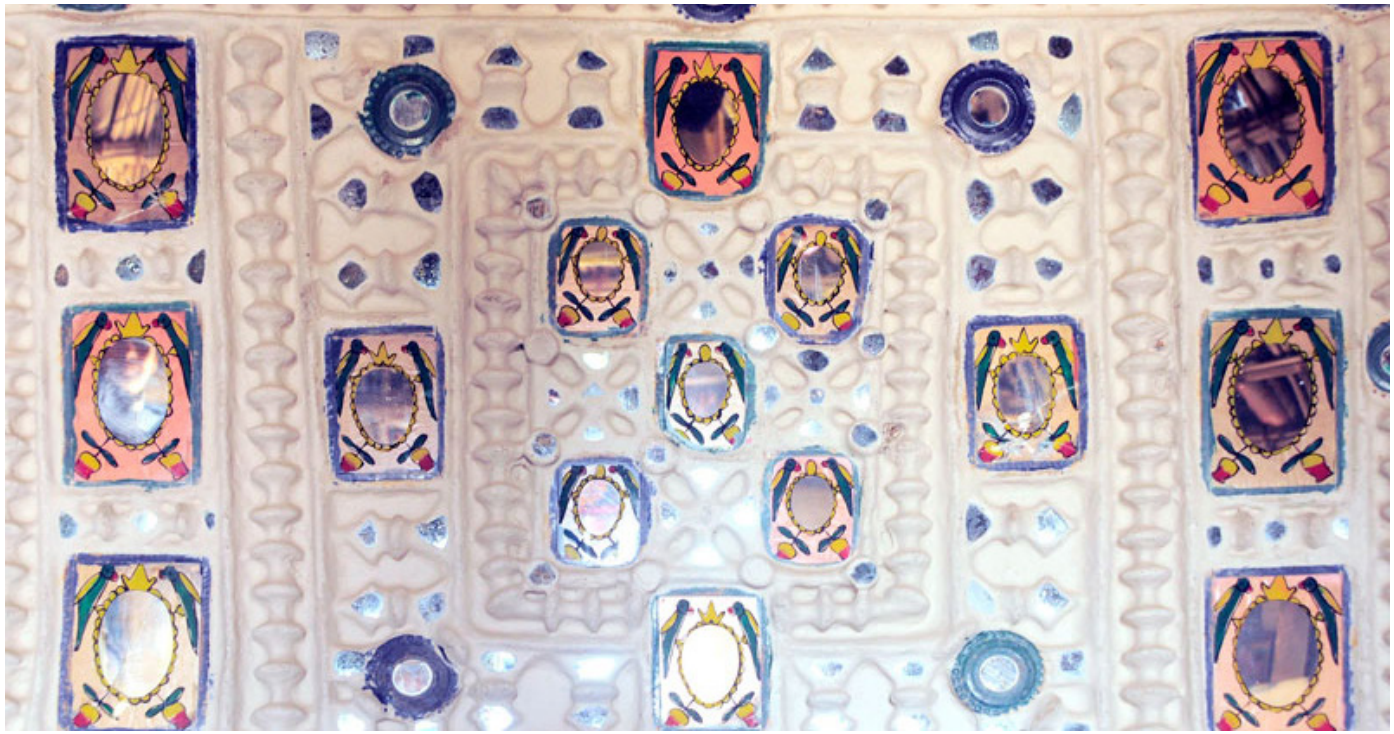
1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Introduction

Mud and mirror work also known as Lippan kaam is a traditional mural craft of Kutch. It is also called as Chittar kaam. Its origins are not known even though various communities in Kutch do mud-relief work and have their own distinct style. Most communities live in circular mud houses known as Bhungas that have thatched roofs. These houses have evolved over the years to survive the harsh climatic conditions of Kutch. The inner walls of the homes are adorned with decorative mud-mirror work. Materials used are locally available in the region. The glittering mirrors in the mud-relief work brighten up the interiors of the houses with just a single lamp. Though the work is limited mainly to the interior walls, it can be found on the outer walls as well. Commonly made designs consist of peacock, camel, elephant, water bearer women, women churning buttermilk, temples, mango tree, etc. The Muslim communities however only use geometric patterns as usage of human or animal symbols is forbidden by their religion.

Further Reading:

• Nora Fisher (1995); Mud Mirror and Thread: Folk Traditions of Rural India.
• Archana Shah (2013); Shifting Sands, Kutch: A Land in Transition.



Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

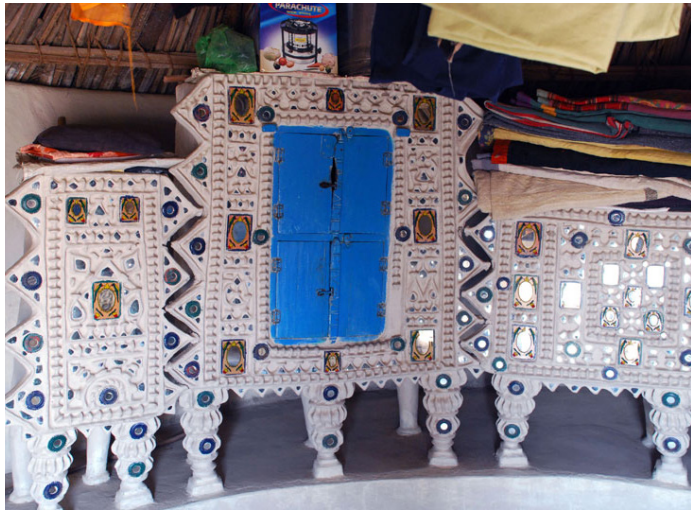
Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay



Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft
by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

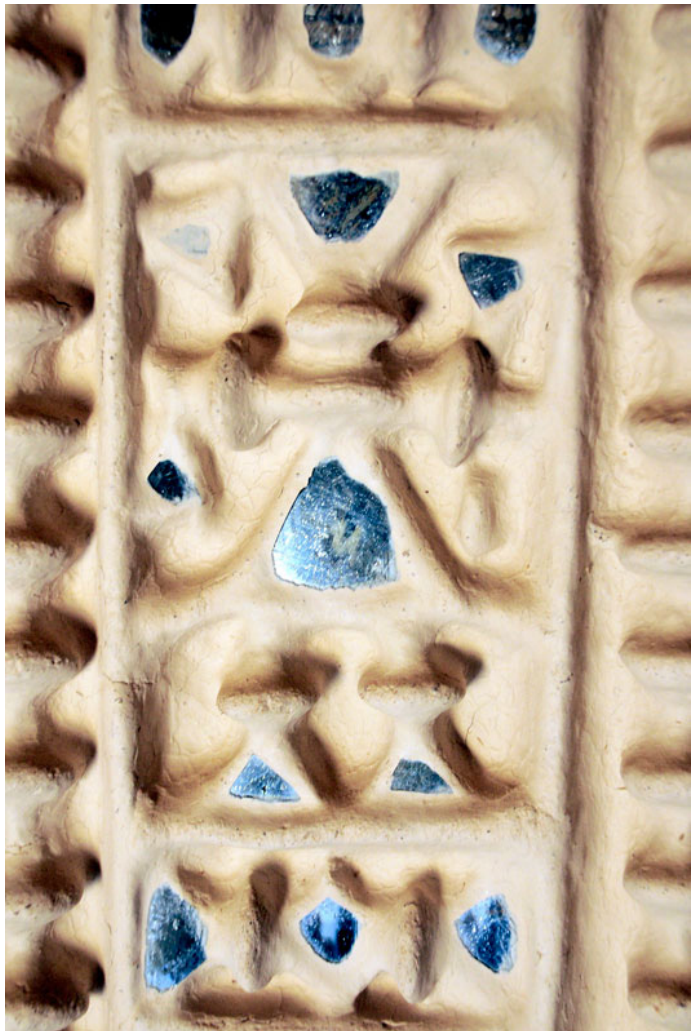
Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details



Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

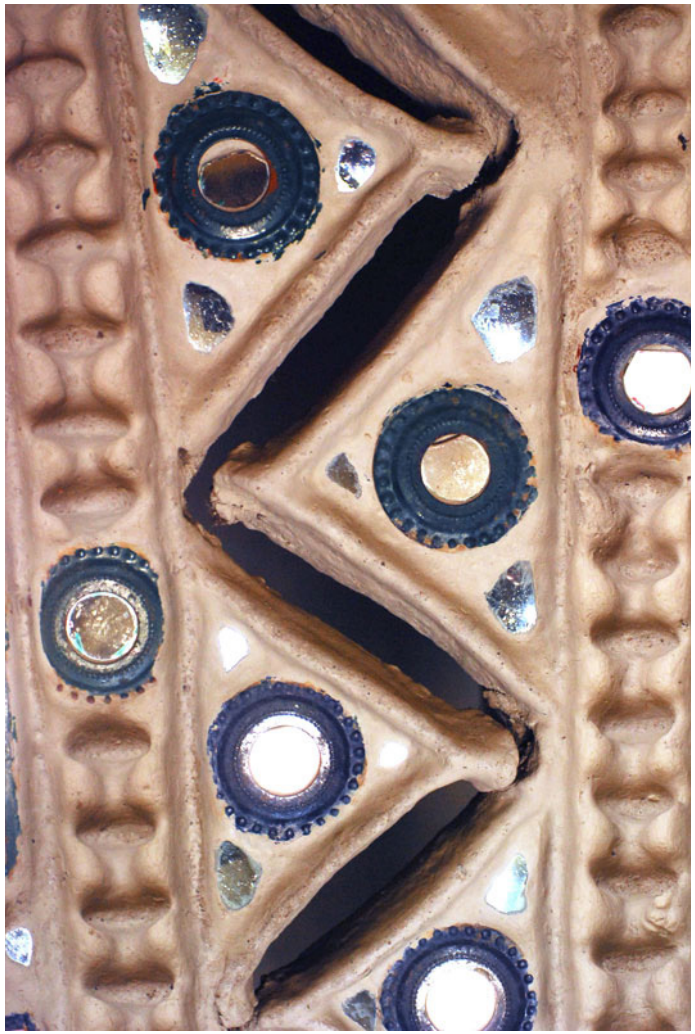
Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details



Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/introduction

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/social-context

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Social Context

Amongst the Rabari and Meghwal communities from Kutch it is the women who carry out the craft, whereas amongst the Mutwa community it is men who do the mud-mirror work. The work adorning the walls of Rabaris reflects their love for embellishments and they have similar designs and motifs in their embroideries. The mirrors are believed to ward off evil and are therefore found as an integral part of their embroideries and their walls.

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/social-context

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/social-context

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Process

According to the elders, mud and mirror work was done directly on the walls of the house using millet husk, mica and clay. Today, the work is done on clay-plastered wooden planks using donkey dung, clay and mirror. The artists do not use any kind of sketch or markings for reference.

The process is as follows:
1. The walls or the board are plastered with clay and the surface is roughened so that the clay sticks to it.

2. Clay is mixed with donkey dung in equal proportions. This mix is then kneaded into dough. The fibers in the donkey dung act as a bonding agent.

3. The wall or the wooden board is moistened with water so that the clay can stick to it.

4. A border is created to define the area inside of which the clay-designs will be made.

5. Small portions of the dough are taken and shaped into cylinders of varying thickness by rolling between the palms or on the floor.

6. The cylinders are then shaped into lines making different patterns while applying slight pressure with the fingers to stick them onto the wall.

7. Mirrors or mica pieces are cut in a variety of shapes and sizes and fixed on top of the wet clay patterns.

8. After the clay dries off in about 4-5 days, a layer of white clay is painted over the artwork.

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

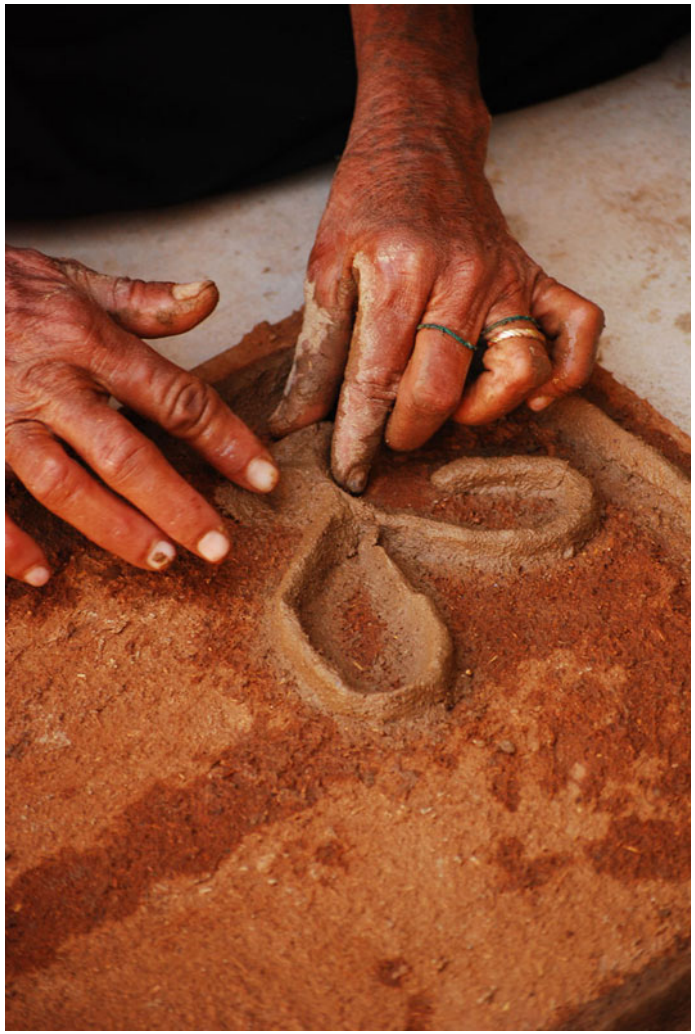
Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details



Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by

Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft

by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/process

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft
by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/video

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Video

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Design Resource

Lippan Kaam - Kutch

Traditional Mural Craft
by
Prof. Nina Sabnani
IDC, IIT Bombay

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/lippan-kaam-kutch/contact-details

1. Introduction
2. Social Context
3. Process
4. Video
5. Contact Details

Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Nina Sabnani, faculty at IDC, IIT Bombay.

You can get in touch with her at ninamsabnani[at]iitb.ac.in

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

Helpdesk Details:
Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
Industrial Design Centre
IIT Bombay
Powai
Mumbai 4000 076
India

Phone: 091-22-25767820/ 7801/ 7802
Fax: 091-22-25767803
Email: dsource.in[at]gmail.com