

Design Resource

## Fabric Painting - Yadgiri, Karnataka

Fabric Art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baraland Srikanth B.  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://www.dsource.in/resource/fabric-painting-yadgiri-karnataka>



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## Introduction

The practice of painting started in prehistoric times when humans painted on rocks and cave walls, where the oldest known work being 40,000 years old. According to researchers, Neanderthals are the pioneers of painting art, who mostly depicted animals in their work. They believed sketching of animal figures help invoke the animal soul making the hunting process easy. Though it is the result of a basic need for expression, innate to human beings, the practice could transmit useful information as well since the outset. Here the representation of humans in cave paintings was rare. India records its earliest form of painting in rocks from prehistoric times, in which Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka and Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra are the most elaborate forms. While Bhimbetka dates back to 5500 B.C, Ajanta came into existence in the 2nd Century BCE, and both bears rock-cut monuments, paintings, and sculptures considered to be precious masterpieces among universal pictorial records as well as Buddhist art. The country also accommodates several other kinds of paintings in India like Madhubani painting, Rajput painting, Mughal painting, Tanjore painting, etc., each with their unique style of execution.

Paintings are regarded for their elements of colour, tone, and rhythm. While colour stands for its observable psychological effects, tone and rhythm are the essences to please the observer. The modern transformation of paintings rests on styles like Modernism, Impressionism, abstract styles, photorealism, surrealism, etc. Similarly, the paintings are also identified based on the medium that the colour is suspended or applied on, like walls, paper, canvas, fabric, wood, glass, clay, leaf, copper, and many more. Oil pastel, acrylic, watercolour, ink fresco, gouache, encaustic, enamel, spray paint, etc. are the type of colours used widely for painting purposes. While bringing light to a type called fabric paintings, humans have been using fabric as a medium for painting for thousands of years, basically since people started experimenting with their clothing materials. Originally, dyes were made with natural pigments mixed with water and oil used to decorate skin, jewelry, and clothing. The dried painting can then be worn, are also used at Garment textiles. Sometimes tools other than brushes are used to apply paint to fabric, like sponges, rollers, and stamps, etc. In India Kalamkari is an ancient style of hand painting done on cotton or silk fabric with a tamarind pen, using natural pigments mixed with water and oil. The word Kalamkari is derived from a Persian word where 'Kalam' means pen and 'Kari' for craftsmanship. One such kind of painting is practiced at the Tirumala Garment Training Center, situated at Yadgiri, a town from the Indian State of Karnataka. The center provides training and employment to several women from their area, making them independent to earn a living. Artisans here not only deal with fabric painting orders but are also involved in some other craftworks like soft toy making, weaving, hand embroidery, etc.



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The Tirumala Garments Training Center is a place where the sewing machine operator training program is regularly conducted.



An attentive trainee indulged in a piece of fabric painting.



A happy student from the Tirumala Garments Training Center.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for Fabric Painting:

- **Embroidery Hoop:** To stretch and hold the fabric, so that it's easy to paint.
- **Acrylic Paints:** It is a type of paint used to colour the fabric.
- **Paint Brush:** It is used to apply paints on the surface.
- **Pallet:** Container is used for taking required quantity of paint.
- **Fabric Material:** Surface on which the painting is done.
- **Pencil:** It is used to draw patterns on the fabric.
- **Carbon Paper:** Thin paper coated with carbon or another pigmented substance, used for making a second impression of a document as it is being written or typed.
- **Stencil:** Sheet that carries patterns that can be transferred on to the fabric material using paint or ink.



Embroidery hoop and frame with a piece of measured white cloth, are pivotal to the fabric painting.



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Different-sized paint brushes for painting as per the pattern.



A Paint pallet is used to mix small amounts of paint and water.



Multiple fabric paint colours are used to highlight the designs.

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The carbon sheet is used to trace the design on to the cloth.



The stencil sheet with designs imprinted is placed on a carbon paper for outlining patterns on to the cloth.



A Pencil is used to trace patterns from a stencil sheet.



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## Making Process

The painting is done on a piece of cloth whose size depends on the design being painted or the type of garment to be made out of it. Initially, the artisan measures a required size of cloth and places a carbon paper on it. This is to trace the indented design to the fabric. Then a sheet carrying various floral designs is kept over the carbon paper and the design is drawn with a pencil. Once the drawing is done, both the sheets are removed and the fabric is attached to an embroidery hoop to start painting. Using a small-sized paintbrush and acrylic fabric colours, the artisan then starts with the periphery of the sketch. Here the colours are transferred to a pallet for easy access to multiple colours at a time. Fabrics paints are a type exclusively manufactured for textiles products. After completing around the periphery, they progress to the interiors of the design to fill in the remaining area. Once the paint dries the fabric can be framed or used to stitch different kinds of garments.



A carbon paper is being placed on the white cloth.



Over the carbon paper, a tracing paper with the intended designs are laid



Artisan drawing design over the tracing paper using a pencil.



After drawing, the artisan removes the tracing paper and carbon paper from the cloth.

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An embroidery hoop is placed under the white cloth.



The designed white cloth is set as per requirement over the hoop.



The frame is set on the design for the firmness of the cloth.



Artisan using a paintbrush to outline the periphery of the design drawn.



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Artisan painting the stem with green paint.



Artisan painting the leaves part with green for more contrasting colours on the fabric.



Artisan applying brown colour to the flower and a small part of the stem.



Artisan gently using brush strokes to attain required results.

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A glimpse of finished work.



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## Products

Fabric cloths are painted with beautiful floral patterns by artisans, which are later stitched to produce various types of garments.



Multiple flower designs arrayed on the fabric.



Red-coloured flowers with leaves give sentence to the art on the cloth.

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## Video



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth Bellamkonda at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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

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