



Glimpse of Folk Art in Uttar Pradesh



Pass on from one generation to another, Indian folk art is still alive in many parts of the India. Having different culture and distinct, a variety of art forms have evolved over the years; some of them are still in their old tradition, some adapting to new colour scheme and materials. Each explain religious epics or Gods and Goddesses mostly , but they're all unique, appreciable and in their own might. In old days they were made with natural dyes and colours made of different items like soil, leaves and charcoal, on surface like canvas or cloth – giving it aesthetic approach.

In various fields of Uttar Pradesh we find the beatification by using folk art:

India has different achievements in various art fields. it is famous for its variation of styles in creativity. Stone work earthenware, porcelain and stoneware ,embroidery, glassware, printing and weaving are few charecterstics of Uttar Pradesh. Although these field are not same in their making procedure but if we look upon their beautification we find the glory of folk art.

Stone Craft

The early stage of earthenware is belong to Mughal dynasty The Taj Mahal in Agra is an excellent example of this craft. In Uttar Pradesh we have lot of example of their perfection in this art. architecture of Fatehpur Sikri always lauded for its features For beatification of these items artist generally use the stylistic features of folk art .

Marble is faviourite material for crafting purpose . Tajmahal is a great example for showing the beauty of marble. artist of Hapur, Agra makes beautiful items by using this material in every size of product.

Pottery

Pottery is also a great example of showing the contribution of folk art in this field. Pottery makers generally use some patterns on these items. for the sake of their glory.

Pottery is popular throughout the state. Potters of Meerut are more skilled in it. The historical background of Khurja pottery is nearly 600years old. Surahi, and pitcher like is the most popular item in lower strata created through pottery. On the outer surface of surahi potters are generally makes some flower pattern like folk art.

These items are beautified with variation of floral designs and patterns. Dark colours are used, mostly orange and yellow green, brown, this is also a impression of folk art. In spite of being completely handmade, these products are not so much costly, on very less amount they sell it.

Chikankari

Chikankari is very famous traditional art of Lucknow. It is generally skillful embroidery done on surface with white thread. It is said that this different style needle work owes its existence to Empress Nur Jahan, wife of Emperor Jahangir. Design and lay out of these work is also inspired by the motif and pattern of folk art, infact their bright colour scheme is not taken from that particular area. The design of borders have impact of folk art design.

Chikan embroidery has two stylized features - flat and embossed. In Flat embroidery artisans does simple sewing sans any loops or knots in threads. under flat embroidery Bukhia and Katawa are very famous . in Bukhia embroidery we find v-shape while in Katawa we find that motifs cut from same fabric on which it is fixed to give an opaque appearance.

Embroidery

Zardosi embroidery is famous in Varanasi. The designing of this particular embroidery has also a strong impression of folk art. The traditional thread work is done using real thread of gold and silver which makes the fabric expensive. Colour full stones and other items are the embellishments used in making of these products. Instead of gold and silver some artisans are using synthetic thread for different impact.

Glass Ware

Uttar Pradesh is also famous for glassware especially the colourful glass bangles. variety of machines are used to create items like utensils, pots etc. 'Firozabad' is also famous as the 'City of bangles'. These all items are decorated by the stylistic features of folk art. their artist have adopted the style of folk art for making them more attractive. These general weman are more comfortable in folk art based work.

Carpet Weaving

In this field also folk art has shown their footprints by their artistic qualities like dark shades ,leaves,birds ,flower based patterns,etc.

Carpet weaving is another most famous handicraft practised in the state. Bhadohi city, about 40km away from Varanasi has excelled in this craft. From 16 century this art style has left footprints and inspiring their next generation by proving their importace and rapo in Uttar Pradesh and other cities of India.

Today it is the largest carpet manufacturing centre in the country. They are ornamented with attractive folk art based patterns and look stunning.

Hand Printing

The oldest craft in the country. Farrukhabad city is popular for it. Traditional patterns like polka dots and the birds are made by hands on this fabric. The patterns are of dark colour, drawn against a cool coloured backdrop. In contemporary style wooden blocks are also used to create these process. It is the most popular pattern created by hand prints. It is very appreciable the art has still managed to survive in this modern era of technology. Such techniques and methods of preparing art image having a good reflection of folk art.

The field of Dance and music is also have the folk style and some dance styles have strong folk background like

Charkula Dance

One of the most spectacular folk dances of Uttar Pradesh which is widely popular in the Braj rejion of western Uttar Pradesh. It is a tough act of balance where a veiled woman dancer performs with more than 100 oil lamps on her head placed on a wooden platform. The songs on which they dance genrally based on the theme of god Krishna, and related to his life history.

Khyal folk dance:

Khyal folk dance has evolved since its origin and Matured into different styles which are named either on the city where they originated or on the community or ather

who developed them. these styles are famous across several regional areas with some subtle changes which help us in differentiating them from the others.

Some popular Khyal forms are Abhinay Khyal, Ali Baksh khyal, Jaipuri Khyal etc. these all are based on the theme of sentiments, bravery, romance and religious theme. Musical instruments like harmonium tabla, dholak gives them melodius touch. Starting of these songs generally based on the tribute to god and goddess.

Raslila

Raslila has been introduced to us through mythological stories, specially related to Krishna. The Raslila was the composition where Lord Krishna dance and sang with gopis on the bank of river Krishna in the Vridawan region. The art form is particularly famous in western Uttar Pradesh

Ramlila

This is another dance form which is primarily practiced in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar. It could also be one of the oldest Folk dance of Uttar Pradesh. it depicts the life of Ram in form of play and dance. Ramlila takes us to the life journey of God Ram who is believed to the another incarnation of God Vishnu.

The entire Ramlila is sequence of plays which continue for varying durations between 7 to 30 days. The dance has a spiritual connectivity and is quite popular in the rural areas.. Since this folk form is mainly performed during Dussehra festival, it makes the folk dance an innate part of religious culture and practice. the stage for Ramlila performance is decorated with props to create a scene from the play and in depth

Lok Kala Sangrahalaya is located at Kaiserbagh in Lucknow. the museum was established in the year 1989. It is mainly an art museum which houses various metal objects, terracotta, pottery, wooden objects, folk paintings, oil paintings, musical instruments, masks, soapstone objects, clay toys jewellery, basketry, mukuts, anthropological objects.

The museum is open on all days from 10.00 a.m. To 5.00 p.m leaving Sunday timing 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 pm. Closed on Monday.

This is very necessary to keep the traditions of folk art to alive. This is very sad that nothing is being done in this purpose. there are many institutions that track the organized art markets in the world. The folk art market needs support from large institutions and corporates In present scenario we find a great change in their styles .

folk art is losing its traditional characteristics now a days. artist related to this art are not getting good financial prospects. The future of these artist is not so much bright because of less awareness of Government and public. Technology and digitalization has taken their place in the fast and speedy production. These technical progress take us very far from the importance and value of Folk Art. In spite of these lot of families are getting their source of income by doing these type of handmade work.

Some new motifs appear during the evolution of folk art, but greater changes occur in the degree of stylization and in the interpretation of old motifs. Images once associated with basic conceptions of the world gradually assume a narrowly utilitarian meaning or become purely decorative; meanwhile the form of an object often undergoes only insignificant functional change. In the 17th and 18th centuries the ideographic element in folk art weakened. In the floral motifs that were now crowding out symbolic geometric designs, decorative patterns became freer and more varied. Folk art was increasingly influenced by fresh observations and by everyday subjects; efforts were made to portray the life of the upper classes in folkloric terms, to adapt the forms of the dominant styles, and to imitate expensive and labor-intensive materials. However, the new motifs and forms (Renaissance, baroque, Empire) that entered folk art bore only a remote resemblance to the originals and became simplified in a rhythmically clear decorative scheme. This was facilitated by the accessibility of new materials and tools, by the appearance of new techniques, by a broadening of the range of interests of folk artists, and by the development of folk lyrics and satire.

Contemporary folk art works are generally decorative objects and souvenirs, attesting to the distinctive aspects of the folk culture of a particular region. Their handmade appearance lends a sense of national tradition and humanity to an environment that has been created largely by standardized industrial means. Folk crafts are important in the economies of the developing countries. In many countries, and other socialist states, efforts are made to preserve folk crafts and their artistic individuality. The work of folk craftsmen is encouraged through contests and exhibitions, and vocational schools train artists and handicraft workers. Research institutes and museums painstakingly study the traditions of folk art and collect the best examples, in part to discover works and decorative techniques that can blend with modern life. Folk art continues to influence the industrial production of artistic works by helping to discover the most expressive forms and decorations of everyday objects. Certain features of folk art live in the works of amateur masters and in the works of professional artists who use the heritage of folk art.

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