

Course Name:
Artisan Name:
Campus:

Performative Art and Craft: Mukha Masks of Majuli, Assam
Khagen Goswami
Ahmedabad



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

Mukha mask making of Majuli, Assam, is a 400-year-old tradition closely linked to Vaishnavite Sattria monasteries. Practiced primarily by the Sattria communities, the craft is integral to Bhaona devotional performances that depict mythological stories. The masks hold deep cultural significance, representing gods, demons, and animals, and bringing sacred narratives to life during religious dramas. Artisans use bamboo, cane, clay, and cloth to shape the masks, coating them with cow dung paste for durability and painting them with natural pigments. The process demands careful molding and detailed hand-painting to achieve expressive features. Mukha masks are not only theatrical tools but also embodiments of Majuli's spiritual, artistic, and communal heritage, sustaining a centuries-old craft that merges devotion, artistry, and identity.

Course Objectives

- Through hands-on engagement, collaborative projects, and reflective dialogues, participants will explore the multifaceted nature of craft—its rituals, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance.
- Enjoy the privilege of co-creating with Craft practitioners and exploring the historical foundations of craft practice, rooted in the cultural landscape.
- To spark creative detours, an infusion of unbiased interdisciplinary participation, and breakthrough
- Outcomes that celebrate diversity in thought and contemporary themes in a traditional setting
- Through the platform, opening up possibilities for intercraft collaborations.



About Artisan

Born into a Vaishnavite Sattriya environment at Sri Sri Chamaguri Satra, Majuli, Khagen Goswami received initial training under eminent Sattriya gurus Late Rudra Kanta Dev Goswami and Late Dharma Kanta Goswami. This included mask making, wooden and cement sculpture, Sattriya dance, and music. Inspired by his uncle, Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Dr. Hemchandra Goswami, and Professor Krishna Goswami of Guwahati Art College, he deepened his practice in handicraft sculpture, mask making, and music. Rooted in the 15th-century Sattriya tradition of Srimanta Sankardeva, his work continues to preserve and promote Assam's rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

Course Methodology

- Demonstration by Master Craftsperson
- Learning the basics of the craft, explorations of traditional forms
- Developing contemporary themes for contemporary narratives and new possibilities
- Making prototypes
- Finishing and displaying new outcomes to encourage conversations around them.

Expected Outcomes- Explorations in contemporary characters, masks, story telling and documentation

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18