

Course Name:
Artisan Name:
Campus:

Sacred Narratives in Fabric: The Mata ni Pachedi Tradition
Kirit Chitara
Ahmedabad



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

Mata ni Pachedi of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is a sacred textile tradition at least 300 years old, with oral histories suggesting a history of 700 to 1000 years. Practised by the nomadic Vaghri community, the craft originated as portable shrines for worship when access to mainstream temples was restricted. The art holds deep cultural and religious significance, depicting the goddess Maa Amba and her exploits, enabling devotees to engage with sacred narratives visually. Artisans work on hand-woven cotton, creating intricate designs using resist-dyeing, natural pigments, and hand-painting, often enhanced with embroidery or appliqué. Products include wall hangings, narrative panels, and ceremonial textiles. Mata ni Pachedi reflects both devotional expression and community resilience, preserving centuries-old storytelling while sustaining Gujarat's unique craft heritage.

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

Kirit Chitara is a distinguished contemporary artisan from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, known for his expertise in the traditional textile art of Mata ni Pachedi.

This art form, whose name literally translates to "behind the Mother Goddess," involves painting or block-printing a sacred cloth that serves as a portable shrine or backdrop for the Goddess. Kirit Chitara is part of the famed Chitara family, which has been preserving this intricate, multi-generational craft—often referred to as the "Kalamkari of Gujarat"—for centuries. He is committed to advancing the art form globally and frequently conducts workshops for students and artists, ensuring this unique spiritual and cultural heritage remains alive.

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 accessories, wall art etc. and documentation

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18