

Course Name: Knotting, Dyeing, and Cultural Identity
Artisan Name: Zakiya Adil Khatri
Campus: Ahmedabad



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

Bandhani is a revered tie-dye craft with a history that dates back to the Indus Valley Civilisation, around 4000 B.C., making it one of the oldest forms of textile art. The name is derived from the Sanskrit word "bandh," meaning "to tie." This craft is a symbol of auspiciousness and is deeply rooted in the cultural traditions of Gujarat and Rajasthan, often worn on significant life events, such as weddings and festivals.

The process is highly intricate and labour-intensive. Artisans, traditionally women from the Khatri community, hand-tie thousands of tiny knots on a fabric—typically cotton or silk—using a pointed fingernail or a small metal ring. Each knot acts as a resist, preventing dye from penetrating that area. The fabric is then dyed, starting with the lightest color and progressing to darker shades, with more knots tied between each dyeing process to create complex, multi-colored patterns. The final products include vibrant sarees, dupattas, and turbans, with each pattern having a unique name and meaning.

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

Zakiya Khatri is a pioneering Bandhani artisan from Kutch, Gujarat, known for being the first woman in her community to complete professional courses in design and business at Somaiya Kala Vidya. Her expertise extends beyond her craft; she is a recognized cultural leader and educator.

She has brought the art of Bandhani to a global stage, delivering a keynote speech at the prestigious Tinkuy conference in Peru in 2017 and collaborating on co-design projects with students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her commitment is to empowering other women artisans in Kutch by sharing the valuable business and design experience she's gained. Her work, created under the brand Nilak with her husband Adil, has been juried into the renowned International Folk Art Market | Santa Fe multiple times.

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 apparel, pattern explorations and documentation

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18