

Course Name:
Artisan Name:
Campus:

Sikki Craft of Bihar: Weaving Tradition and Symbolism in Golden Grass
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Ahmedabad



About Craft

Sikki, or golden grass, is a traditional craft with roots in the Mithila region of Bihar, believed to have existed since the Vedic era. It holds great cultural significance, particularly for women, who traditionally created these items for their personal use and as part of their dowry, symbolising prosperity. The craft is predominantly practised by women from various communities, including the Harijan community, who traditionally harvest the grass.

The process involves harvesting the golden-hued grass from marshy areas, which is then dried and stripped. Artisans use a coiling technique, building a base with a stronger, more affordable grass, such as munj, and then meticulously coiling the golden Sikki grass around it. The only tool is a needle-shaped iron object called a takua. While the natural golden color is beautiful, the grass is also dyed with vibrant colors. The products range from utilitarian items like baskets and containers to decorative pieces such as figurines of deities, animals, and intricate wall hangings.

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

Nitu Devi is a renowned and skillful sikki grass artisan from Bihar. She has gained recognition for her expertise in the traditional art of weaving golden sikki grass. In 2023, she taught a masterclass on sikki craft at the Design Week 2.0 held by the Parul Institute of Design. During the event, she demonstrated the craft's techniques and highlighted its cultural significance. She is recognized for showing the intricate details of sikki craft and giving students a hands-on experience in its unique weaving techniques.

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, small products, and documentation

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18