

Course Name: Exploring the art of Bengal Patachitra of Bengal

Artisan Name: Samir Chitrakar & Mamoni Chitrakar

Campus: Bengaluru



शिल्प संगम



About Craft

Bengal Patachitra goes by several other names, one of them being Kalighat Paintings and the other most common version Bengal Pata paintings. Sameer mentions that the folk art is almost 8 generations old, which means by the passage of its knowledge from father to son the folk art would be over 600 years old. Their pride lies in the heritage and history of their craft, and the rich culture of storytelling that is associated with the art, in the form of songs sung about the various topics and events that the artists draw. This integration of music, story and drawing is unique to the culture of most folk paintings in India, and refers to a time bygone.

About Artisan

Sameer Chitrakaar and his wife and partner in livelihood Mamoni Chitrakaar are Bengal Patachitra Artists, hailing from West Midnapore, Pingla Noya district, who have been initiated into this craft since their childhood. They were both taught the painting style by their parents and grandparents when they were merely 8 years old. Sameer and his wife are 40 and 36 years old respectively now, and have been involved in their livelihood surrounding this folk painting style for over 30 years.

Mamoni is the winner of several prizes at the National, State and Zila level. She has been the recipient of the National Handicraft Award in 2014, making her one of the youngest female artisans to win this award and also the youngest amongst her own craft community. She has exceptional control over her tools and a very admirable eye for detail. Mamoni has been traveling with her craft around the world for many years now, having made frequent visits to the USA, France and Bahrain. Sameer has been part of prestigious fairs and exhibitions throughout India. He features yearly in many of the craft events that happen in cities such Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. He has displayed his works at Chitrakala Parishad, Dastkaar, Karigaari Bazaar, and at the Pragati Maidan in Delhi as part of ITPO department's exhibition at the Craft Museum in New Delhi.

Course Objectives

- Through hands-on engagement, the students will learn the nuanced technique of creating Kalighat art with the essence of the style and iconography that defines this art form.
- Through reflective dialogues and conversations, participants will explore the multifaceted nature of craft—its rituals, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance.
- Through collaborative projects with the artisans and fellow students, they will be able to create paintings not just on paper or canvas but also applied to household or interior object surfaces,
- The students can explore outcomes that celebrate diversity in thought and contemporary themes in a traditional setting, but depicting new narratives and stories that the students want to tell.
- Exploring the possibility of intercraft collaborations with other crafts on the campus to create large product/s and incorporating this art style on some interior product surfaces.

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

Maximum Number of Participants - 12 to 18