



शिल्प संगम

Course Name: Kangra Miniatures: Pahari Painting, Spiritual Identity, and Artistic Continuity

Artisan Name: Mr. Parikshit Sharm, Mr. Antriksh Sharma

Campus: Gandhinagar

About Craft

Kangra painting, one of the most renowned schools of **Pahari miniature art**, flourished in Himachal Pradesh during the **18th century**. It was developed by a community of **Kashmiri painters**, trained in Mughal techniques, who migrated to the Guler and Kangra regions. Blending Mughal precision with local traditions, they created a distinct style marked by delicate lines, soft, lyrical colors, and fine detailing. Supported by Rajput courts, especially the Kangra rulers, these paintings gained cultural and spiritual significance, often illustrating themes of love and devotion drawn from the Bhagavata Purana, Gita Govinda, and Radha-Krishna legends. The process involved handmade paper, natural pigments, and fine squirrel-hair brushes, producing luminous, emotive works. Products included miniature paintings, manuscripts, and folios, embodying poetry, spirituality, and refined aesthetics that define Kangra's cultural identity.

About Artisan

Shri. Parikshit Sharma is from Chountra village of Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh. He is the first generation artisan practicing Kangra Painting. Since 25 years. He learned Kangra Painting from Padma Shri Awardee Master Artisan Shri Vijay Sharma. Now, his son has also joined him in his practice. Mr. Parikshit was Awarded State award for his craft in 2006.

He is actively involved in the craft practice, running craft trainings for Kangra Paintings among local youth through training organized by the central Government, and craft education for design students across the country. He is quite frequently engaging with design students at NIFT Kangra & Delhi

Shri Antriksh Sharma is son of Shri Parikshit Sharma. He is 17 years old, and alongside his studies learning, helping his father in his practice of Kangra Painting.

Expected Outcomes

- Learning explorations for the art form - Kangra Painting
- Explorations for traditional narratives
- Explorations for contemporary narratives, new materials and colour mediums
- Kangra Paintings (one or more) made by the participating student

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.
- Get the privilege of co-creating with Craft practitioners and discovering the historical foundations of the 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 a possibility for creating intercraft collaborations is possible.

Course Methodology

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

Number of Participants - 12 to 20

