

Course Name: Felt Craft of Nepal
Artisan Name: Ramila Basnet
Campus: Gandhinagar



About Craft

Felt Craft in Nepal is a thriving cottage industry that blends traditional craftsmanship with modern innovation. Using 100% natural wool—mainly imported from New Zealand—Nepali artisans craft a diverse range of handmade felt products, including accessories, toys, decor, and apparel. The process, involving wet and needle felting, reflects eco-friendly, sustainable methods that employ thousands of women across Kathmandu. Beyond its economic importance, felt-making promotes women's empowerment, skill development, and the preservation of a creative craft heritage rooted in Nepal's evolving design culture.

It's renowned for its vibrant colors, detailed designs, and sustainable production practices. The craft plays a significant role in the Nepali economy by providing employment opportunities, particularly for women in rural communities.

About Artisan

Ramila is an entrepreneur from Wards No. 3 and 4, Kathmandu, Ms. Basnet is the founder of an online business venture and an active advocate for women's empowerment through skill development and local felt production. Her experience in digital marketing and strategic leadership has been instrumental in modernizing traditional crafts and connecting them to contemporary markets.

Expected Outcomes

- Learning explorations for the craft technique and materials
- Refined explorations of forms
- Clay mask (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 a 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
- Developing contemporary themes for contemporary narratives and new possibilities
- Making prototypes
- Finishing and displaying new outcomes to encourage conversations around them.

Number of Participants - 12 to 18