SHILPSUTRA
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राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Kantha Stitch

West Bengal

Seats Available 13

OE26A09
Ahmedabad Campus



Nakshi kantha embroidered textile featuring an intricate circular motif and stylized animal and floral borders in earthy tones. Technique: Layers of old cotton sarees/dhotis are stacked and stitched together with simple running stitches, creating a quilted fabric. Decorative motifs—floral, geometric, animals, narrative scenes—are built up with dense stitching.

Forms: Traditional quilts (Kantha/Nakshi Kantha), but today also sarees, stoles, shawls, jackets, bags, home textiles, and accessories.

Regions in West Bengal: Strong clusters in Birbhum (Bolpur/ Santiniketan, Nanoor, Ausgram), Purba Bardhaman (Galsi, Bhedia), Murshidabad, Nadia, and parts of North & South 24 Parganas and Kolkata.



Ms. Bharti Singh

Bharti Singh from Kolkata, West Bengal, is an artisan who found her calling in the rhythmic stitches of Kantha after witnessing the women in her community transform old textiles into storied masterpieces.

Inspired by the heritage of Bengal, she gradually began layering her own narratives onto fabric, turning simple running stitches into intricate expressions of life and nature. Today, her work reflects the heart of West Bengal, blending tradition with a modern aesthetic that celebrates the beauty of hand-embroidery.