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राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Kintsugi (Ceramic Lacquer Craft)

Thailand

Seats Available 13

OE26A12
Ahmedabad Campus



Kintsugi (金継ぎ, “golden joinery”) is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the cracks with urushi lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. Rather than hiding damage, it makes the repair visible, turning fractures into luminous seams that become part of the object’s history and beauty.

Philosophy and cultural meaning
Kintsugi is closely associated with the Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi, which finds beauty in imperfection, impermanence, and simplicity, but it is specifically a repair practice rather than a general decorative style. It treats breakage and repair as part of an object’s story, not something to disguise. Metaphorically, it’s often invoked as a reminder to embrace flaws, recover from setbacks, and see healing as a source of new value.

What it is and how it works?
Materials: Traditional repairs use urushi, a natural lacquer made from lacquer-tree sap, often mixed with rice or flour paste. Gold, silver, or platinum powder provides the finish. Process: Shards are cleaned, joined with lacquer, rebuilt with layered putty, sanded, and accented with metal powder. Repairs take weeks or months because each layer must cure slowly.



Dr. Sumanatsya Voharn

Sumanatsya currently an Assistant Professor in the Media Arts Department, Faculty of Fine Arts, Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Her research and creative practice focus on design, craft, and collaboration with local communities in Thailand and abroad. As an industrial designer and craft practitioner, she has experience working with traditional Asian lacquer, Kintsugi, and contemporary craft practices, particularly in exploring how traditional knowledge and materials can be interpreted within contemporary design contexts. Thailand.