Award of Excellence for Handicrafts

2012 SOUTH ASIA AWARDS

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www.unescobkk.org/culture/creativity/award-of-excellence-for-handicrafts

Banjara Wall Hanging
India

Hand embroidered wall hanging from the *Banjara* tribe.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts praised the intricate embroidery and variety of techniques used in this traditional yet modern looking wall hanging.

Nakshi Kantha Table Runner
Bangladesh

A contemporary table runner decorated with geometric *nakshi kantha*, a traditional embroidery technique.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts praised the use of contemporary colours and design in this finely executed traditional embroidery, providing a modern-looking, well-finished runner.

Jamdani Stole
Bangladesh

Ivory colored half-silk half-cotton *jamdani* stole, a hand-loom technique where the pattern is embroidered on the loom (supplementary discontinued weft).

The International 2012 Panel of Experts praised the excellent handloom weaving technique, highly noticeable on the transparent white fabric, as well as the innovative combination of silk and cotton which gave the stole a luxury look while keeping the price reasonable.

Bridal Jewellery Box
Bangladesh

Red sheep leather bridal jewellery box, with *nakshi kantha,* a traditional embroidery technique, decoration on the top.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts praised the very fine execution of the traditional n*akshi kanta* embroidery, enhanced by the bright red colour, the neat finish and the practical multiple compartments.

Kantha Embroidered Natural Indigo Cotton Scarf
Bangladesh

Shibori (tie-dye) and *nakshi kantha* (embroidery) cotton scarf with indigo embroidery and traditional *kantha* stitches.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the successful fusion of a contemporary design, created by tie-dyed and embroidered lines with a subtle embroidered border, revealing the identity of the reasonably priced scarf.

Hand-painted Silk Clutch Bag
India

Hand-painted clutch bag with *Patachitra* image - a style of paintings practiced among the tribal and indigenous people of Orissa.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the fusion design of this clutch bag decorated with hand-painted *patachitra* patterns from Orissa on a bright contrasting background.

Kamdani Embroidery on Silk Scarf
India

Textured silk scarf decorated with *kamdani* (embroidery using metal threads), one of the oldest embroidery technique of India.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the very fine execution of *kamdani,* embroidery with metal threads, on this silk scarf whose elegance is enhanced by the contrast of colors and textures.

Hand Painted Kalamkari Product
India

Silk skirt, choli and chiffon shawl that are hand painted and hand embroidered with the *kalamkari* method.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended finely executed hand painting on silk, and the rich yet elegant combination of natural dyes on these traditional garments which can be worn with modern clothes.

Pure Tassar Silk Hand Block Printed Scarf
India

Gold, black and white hand block printed *tassar* silk scarf.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the excellent quality of the block print, which is difficult to achieve on wild *tassar* silk, as well as the excellent colour combination and composition of the scarf.

Range of Stoles & Dupatta
India

Hand block printed and hand embroidered stoles and dupattas (large traditional fabric used by Indian women to cover their head and upper body) from Champa, Chattisgarh, Central India. The edges are finished with the hand appliqué technique.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the excellent quality of the block print, which is difficult to achieve on wild *tassar* silk, and the exquisite hand appliqué finishing. The composition and selection colours gives a unique and contemporary look to these stoles.

Jamdani Silk Stole "Big Leaf"
India

Hand woven silk stole using *jamdani*, a hand-loom technique where the pattern is embroidered on the loom (supplementary discontinued weft).

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the good execution of the traditional *jamdani* weaving technique and the pleasant texture, while the use of asymmetrical design and the selection of vivid colours give the stole a contemporary easy-to-wear look.

Ikat Weaving (Orissa)
India

The tie-dye on wild *tassar* silk woven fabric is from the Indian state of Orissa, a style locally known as *bandha*.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the well-executed tie-dye technique, and appreciated the classical motifs and interesting choice of rich dyes.

***Ajrakh* Hand Block Printed With Natural Dye 'Quilt Stole'**
India

Stole using *ajrakh* hand block printing with thread resist technique, as well as *bandhuri* hand weaving and stitching techniques.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the well-executed *ajrakh* technique - mixing block printing on both sides of the fabric and resist printing - and the neat hand finishing. The use of harmonious natural blue and grey shades and the 2 layers of silk and wool give a warm and cozy quilted stole.

***Ajrakh* Block Printed Stole**
India

Stole using *ajrakh* hand block printing with thread resist technique, a traditional craft of the Khatri community of Gujarat.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the effort made in the execution and promotion the traditional *ajrakh* technique - mixing block printing on both sides of the fabric and resist printing - the use of natural dyes, and innovative spacing of the patterns which gives a modern touch to traditional motifs.

Tassar Silk Stole With Chikankari Embroidery
India

Tassar silk stoles with intricate *chikankari* hand embroidery & hand-made trellis, finished with hand-made crochet lace.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the well-executed embroidery, lace hem, and noted that the innovative use of silk, giving an elegant touch to the traditional patterns.

Artistic Natural Dye Woollen Shawl
India

The natural-dyed woolen shawl is based on traditional *ahbda* design.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the well-balanced design, exquisite patterns, use of natural dyes, and very neat finishes of this reasonably priced shawl.

Hand Block Printed Silk Cotton Handloom Scarf
India

The silk-cotton scarf uses natural and herbal dyes and is embellished with gold outlines.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the use of traditional block-printed technique and natural dyes to create an innovative design of space and graded patterns enhanced by the borders.

Hand-Woven Palmyrah Leaf Chettinad 'Kottan' – Sample 1
India

A unique adaptation of the kottan into a contemporary double-layered fruit basket using two techniques of weaving; one technique is called *sohi,* which is comparable to embroidery done with palm leaves.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the fine execution of the traditional *sohi* technique, embroidery with palm leaves, and praised the use of the double layer which strengthens the basket.

Hand-Woven Palmyrah Leaf Chettinad 'Kottan' – Sample 2
India

Basket woven using the *sohi* technique, which is comparable to embroidery done with palm leaves.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the fine execution of the traditional *sohi* technique, embroidery with palm leaves, and praised the design, which includes four types of weave and nice colour combination.

Bamboo Block Print Mat Runner
India

Mat created by traditional *Bagih* hand-block printing on bamboo chik.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the exploration of the traditional block printing technique on bamboo, producing a new range of versatile and usable products. The contrasting colours provide an attractive rendering of the very diverse traditional motifs displayed on the runner.

Carpet / Floor Mat
Sri Lanka

Carpet/mat made out of coconut fiber, with tile patterns.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the attractive tile patterns and the thoughtful use of a border which nicely finishes the well-woven carpet/mat.

Terracotta-Miniature Tea Set
India

This tea miniature set made is made on the potter's wheel with local clay. Each piece measures between 2 and 3 cm.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the very neat execution on a potter's wheel and the attractive presentation of these reasonably priced miniatures.

Fruit Bowl (Red Clay)
Sri Lanka

The red clay and images on this bowl are traditional and religious themes illustrating the Sri Lankan identity.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the quality of this attractive red clay bowl whose design elements clearly evoke Sri Lanka's culture.

Lac Jewellery Box
India

Lacquered wooden box richly decorated with Rajasthani traditional patterns.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the fine embellishments, reflecting the Rajasthan heritage of the master artisans, and praised the smooth finishing of the lac and the very reasonable price of the product.

Papier-Mâché Fruit Bowl
India

Hand-painted, papier-mâché bowl with floral design and a representation of Mahatma Gandhi.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the exquisite painting in subtle hues and its sensitive reference to Mahatma Gandhi decorating the bowl, as well as the elegant shape of this papier-mâché bowl.

Coconut Shell Jewellery Box
India

A box finely carved in the shell of young and old coconuts.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the excellent carving skills of the artisan and the beautiful contrast of colours between the dark shell of mature coconuts and the clear shell of the young one. The velvet lining nicely finishes the product.

Aroma Lamp-Soap Stone
India

Aroma lamp with fine traditional latticed patterns carved in soap stone. Both the lid and the base are removable for easy use and cleaning.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the finely carved traditional latticed pattern of this well-thought market-competitive aroma lamp.

Brass Jali Lamp
India

This led lamp is made from a hardwood base and brass lamp shade. The *jali* (ornamental latticed screen traditionally used in architecture in India) design of the brass is reminiscent of Delhi & Agra.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the good design balancing the decorated and plain sections of the lamp. The *jali,* latticed design, on the top of the lamp creatively reveals patterned shadows.

Silver Ring: The Four Signs
Sri Lanka

The silver ring displays the 'four signs in Buddhism': the sick, the old, the dead and the holy, which motivated Prince Siddhartha to renounce to the world and led him to enlightenment.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts noticed the well-executed lost-wax casting technique and commented that the use of a square shape was a meaningful way to display the 'four signs in Buddhism': the sick, the old, the dead and the holy.

Wall Hanging in Sanjhi-Mango Tree
India

Wall Hanging representing a mango tree and animals, made from hand-cut gold foil.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the beautiful composition of the tree and its decorative elements, which was intricately cut out of a gold leave with special scissors.


Leather Puppetry
India

Traditional puppet on bamboo sticks carved in goat skin.

The International 2012 Panel of Experts commended the composition of the leather puppet, which enhances the beautifully executed traditional skills.

Information on the Award of Excellence is available on the programme website: www.unescobkk.org/culture/creativity/award-of-excellence-for-handicrafts or contact one of the project's partners.
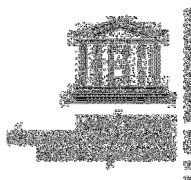
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