

TRINITY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN NAMAKKAL

DEPARTMENT OF COSTUME DESIGN & FASHION

HISTORIC COSTUME IN TEXTILE EVEN SEMESTER

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TRADITIONAL EMBROIDERIES OF INDIA

CHIKAN / CHIKANKARI

Origin: *Chikankari* originated from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It began with white embroidery on a white cloth, but today, it is available in all colours imaginable.

Creation: Requiring patience and skill, this embroidery is done by stitching on patterns traced on a variety of cloth materials like muslin, silk, chiffon, net, cotton, etc.

Style: From sarees to suits, lehengas to palazzos, chikan embroidery is chosen by women to showcase elegance which comes guaranteed with the intricacies of the stitches and patterns.



ZARI / ZARDOSI

ORIGIN: The word Zardosi comes from Persian words for gold (zari) and embroidery (dosi).

CREATION: Metallic threads were used on silk and velvet. Originally, Zardosi embroidered clothes used gold or silver threads with precious stones and pearls making them luxury items, exclusively worn by the rich.

STYLE: While previously this embroidery was a mark of the rich, nowadays gold-coloured plastic threads are used, making this form of art more affordable.



AARI

ORIGIN: Aari owes its origin to the Mughals and is practised in Rajasthan, Lucknow, and Kashmir.

CREATION: The very image of finery, the Aari embroidery is created by using a hooked needle to make chain stitch loops, often using beads and sequins for embellishments.

STYLE: With highly detailed designs inspired by nature, Aari stands apart in its richness. Easy to maintain and style, any material with Aari embroidery provides comfort with fashion.



BANJARA

ORIGIN: The nomadic tribes of Banjara did not limit themselves to a single geographical location which allowed this style of embroidery to disperse across various regions, facilitating variations in the technique and designs.

CREATION: Using a brightly colored base cloth, motifs for this embroidery are highlighted by cross-stitch in geometric patterns.

STYLE: With a combination of patchwork and Mirrorwork, the Banjara embroidery gives vibrance to the everyday ethnic look. It is included in both modern garments as well as the traditional ones.



GOTA

ORIGIN: Born in Rajasthan, this embroidery technique uses zari from Lucknow to trace elaborate patterns, creating different surface textures.

CREATION: Used with kinari work, Gota embroidery was originally done with gold and silver wires of varying lengths woven in a satin or twill weave.

STYLE: With the motifs of nature, Gota embroidery gives a graceful and royal impression.



KANTHA

ORIGIN: From East Indian states like West Bengal, Odisha and Tripura and Bangladesh, comes Kantha embroidery, chiefly practiced by rural women. **CREATION**: With varying motifs of flowers, animals, celestial objects, and geometric patterns, Kantha embroidery is done by stitching on the cloth, which gives the cloth a wrinkled and wavy effect. Originally done to create cushions, blankets, sarees, and bedspreads, now Kantha is used in dupattas and shirts for both men and women.

STYLE: With Kantha embroidery now available on kurtas and suits, fashion with comfort has reached new heights.



SHISHA / MIRRORWORK

ORIGIN: Mirrorwork was originally done with Mica. Patronized by Rajasthan, Haryana, and Gujarat, Mirrorwork varies in use and style according to region and taste.

CREATION: Using a special cross stitch, mirrors (of various sizes and shapes) are affixed to apparel, and the fabric is then decorated with similar stitches to enrich the overall appeal of the cloth.

STYLE: From apparel to accessories, mirrorwork is largely used and widely loved. With plenty of options available, clothes with Mirrorwork can be worn as daily wear or on special occasions.



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