

CRAFTS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH AND TELANGANA- KALAMKARI, POCHAMPALLY  
AND MANGALGIRI

Written by

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FADE IN:

MAIN TITLE: Crafts from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana  
Kalamkari, Pochampally, Mangalgiri

Shots of three different crafts of Kalamkari, Pochampally and Mangalgiri side by side in the same frame.

TITLE: Kalamkari

Pedana, Andhra Pradesh

EXT. KALAMKARI WORKSHOP - DAY

Artisans are stretching a long white plain cloth and placing it over the workspace that has hooks attached to it.

EXT. KALAMKARI WORKSHOP - DAY

An artisan is pouring paints on wooden screens that have the Kalamkari patterns on them.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The block printing craft from Andhra Pradesh is known as Kalamkari. Kalam means pen and kari means work. Traditionally, the prints were made using bamboo pens but here in Pedana in Machilipatnam district, block prints are used. The original art form uses natural colours that are then transferred using wooden blocks with intricate designs. The wooden blocks work as moulds that have different shapes and patterns.

EXT. KALAMKARI WORKSHOP - DAY

Two artisans each are holding the Kalamkari screens on opposite ends and placing over the plain white cloth that has been laid out for designing.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Nowadays, screen printing has replaced the original and more tedious block printing in many places in Pedana.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Large wooden planks with designs already carved on them are used to transfer the colours. Here they are designing a 7 metre long dress material that was first washed in rice water to make it stiff. This workshop gets its colours from Chennai and the sequence of colours used are black, orange, green and blue. The designs are aligned because the hooks keep the wooden screens in place.

EXT. KALAMKARI WORKSHOP - DAY

Four wooden screens of Kalamkari moulds that have different colours are moved along the white plain cloth by a group of artisans and the colourful designs are thus formed. After the designs are printed, the cloth is then kept in the open for drying.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Screen printed Kalamkari is now more popular because it is faster than other forms of Kalamkari. More people now tend to buy the screen printed designs than the traditional block printed ones because firstly it's quite difficult for a novice to point out the difference between the two and secondly, because the block printed ones tend to be more expensive. But nonetheless, Kalamkari patterns remain quite popular in silk and cotton for both sarees and dress materials.

FADE OUT.

TITLE: Pochampally silk saree weaving

Pochampally, Telangana

Photos of silk threads hanging from traditional handlooms, spinning wheels for making bundles of silk threads, weaver working on a handloom to weave a saree.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

The silk town of Pochampally is situated an hour's drive away from Telangana's capital city Hyderabad. Pochampally sarees use the tie and dye method known as Ikkat. At first, Pochampally sarees were woven only in cotton but for the past few decades, the silk sarees have also got quite popular.

EXT. WEAVER'S HOUSE - DAY

An artisan is seen making silk yarns using a traditional spinning wheel.

Photos of geometrical patterns of birds made on butter papers that are used to make the designs on Pochampally silk sarees.

Photos of colourful silk yarns that have been wrapped in geometrical patterns using the tie and dye method.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Now, silk, cotton and a mix of silk and cotton known as SiCo are used. Most of the silk weaving is done in traditional looms in the houses whereas the cotton weaving is mostly done in cooperatives. The signature design of the Pochampally sarees are the geometrical patterns that are first drawn on butter papers. The tie and dye method of Ikkat uses the technique of creating resist by binding bundles or single yarns. A tight wrapping is applied on the yarns in a geometric pattern and then the yarns are dyed. This procedure is repeated many times until the desired patterns are produced.

INT. WEAVER'S HOUSE - DAY

Weavers are weaving Pochampally silk sarees on traditional looms set inside their homes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

After dying, the bindings are removed and the yarns are then woven into the cloth to make the desired product.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Pochampally products use natural  
 colours for dying and the colours  
 are generally quite bright.

FADE OUT.

TITLE: Mangalgiri cotton saree weaving

Mangalgiri, Andhra Pradesh

Photos of Undavalli caves near Vijaywada, a temple and  
 handloom workshops in Mangalgiri.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 Just a short drive away from the  
 popular Undavalli caves near  
 Vijaywada is the town of Mangalgiri  
 in Andhra Pradesh. It is famous for  
 its temples and the cotton sarees  
 and dress materials woven here.  
 Both handlooms and powerlooms are  
 used to weave Mangalgiri cotton  
 sarees. The white threads used are  
 brought from Vijaywada and are dyed  
 here. The zari threads used in the  
 borders are brought from Surat in  
 Gujarat.

INT. HANDLOOM WORKSHOP - DAY

Through the moving threads of a Mangalgiri saree that is  
 being woven, the feet of a weaver can be seen paddling the  
 loom.

INT. HANDLOOM WORKSHOP - DAY

An old weaver is seen weaving a saree.

INT. HANDLOOM WORKSHOP- DAY

A general view of the handloom workshop where various weavers  
 can be seen working on the looms.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
 The weavers are mostly from the  
 older generation.  
 (MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Because of less wages, the younger generation does not want to do this work even though many have learnt how to do it. The weavers here have learnt this craft as children and have been doing this work for many years.

INT. HANDLOOM WORKSHOP - DAY

An old weaver is talking about the hurdles faced by the weaving community because of less wages and the lack of interest shown by the next generation in this line of work.

WEAVER

Earlier 10000 people used to do this work. But now because of low wages and increased costs, less than 2000 people are involved in this work. It is because of people like us that this craft is still alive. The younger generation is now not interested in this line of work. The young people are now working elsewhere in different shops.

FADE OUT.

END CREDIT

Thank You

Shourya Dutta Gupta

A film by Amrita Kundu