

Sustainable, Rhythmic and Mathematical Sindhi Motifs

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Abstract

Background scientific research: Kutch and Saurashtra regions of Gujarat in India specialize the most exquisite form of embroidery stitches for adorning fabric. The rhythmic patterns speak volumes about the passion with which the patterns are embroidered by tribal women. Each tribe have their own style of embroidery, and the patterns and stitches vary. They have their traditional localized names. The most complex stitch, interlacing through the grid produces patterns which could baffle anyone. It's the Sindhi Stitch magic and geometric motifs which beautifully add value to the fabric. This is practiced in one region of India, although today it's spread to other regions because of cross cultural interactions within the country. The vibrant bright colors aesthetically balanced with rhythm and harmony add to the richness of the patterns. Designers in India closely work with artisans to design their collections and there is a huge upper segment market for these exquisite works of embroidery. This technique is sustainable and survived over ages and still holds special place in hearts of consumer who have taste and style to wear them.

Research hypothesis/Problem to be addressed: The workshop aims at exploring and experimenting with different materials to achieve beautiful patterns and combining it with mirror work to give exquisite look. Exploring and experimenting with either with bright and vibrant or muted tones will be fun and a tremendous learning for the participants. The participants will learn the skill of the Sindhi stitch combined with mirror work. Participants make layouts where potentially they could apply the motifs. The participants will appreciate the rich traditional embroidery from India.

Methodology used to involve participants in the workshop: The participants will be provided the materials so that they can learn the skill and understand the mathematical motifs by formation of grids. The interlacing is an interesting technique to make the motif. Participants will understand the interlacing rules and techniques. This requires dexterity and skill to maneuver the design, however by understanding the rules it becomes easier to follow.

Results expected and achieved at the conference. Relevance for fashion theory and practice: The participants can experiment with the beautiful colors and technique of making basic motif, which the skilled artisans have mastered over ages. This will give exposure about the technique of attaching mirrors through different techniques understanding India's strengths in designing.

Although the complexity of the stitch restricts production at large scale and therefore only caters to a niche market. My mother once quoted, "Hand embroidery is priceless and no one can pay its price since the emotions of a person are reflected in the work...and the time taken to embroider each motif is huge...especially when it comes to Sindhi since it's involves complex grid first and then embroidering...sink in effortless harmony even with bright colors..." The sustainable designs have sustained generations and still shining with the millennial generation.

Keywords: Sindhi embroidery, sustainable design, rhythmic motifs, mirror work, Kutch embroidery.

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