

Design, Tradition and Innovation

This presentation is a compilation of my personal inspiration, people and research on Tradition and innovation. I have taken **“Hand and keen Observation”** as a theme

In this presentation I am using Tradition, Design and Innovation as whole and interconnected. In this I will be presenting some of the ideas or products not only from India but world over.



Some thoughts

According to American Institute of Graphic Arts,

Strategy (head), Empathy (heart) and Craft (hand)- are essential aspects of design (AIGA remains the oldest and largest professional membership organization for design)

To me Design is *a way of thinking, systems , services and methodical process* to arrive at a solution . The journey is more crucial than the final outcome

My approach.... Inspired by

*“Leave room for others to co-create with you; provide a platform for open innovation”- **Zen principle***

Slow design

Co-design approach - **Alistair Fuad-Luke**

Process is more important than outcome

Drift

Studio - a place to Study - **Incomplete Manifesto- Bruce Mau**

To me.....

Design is

- Form, Function and the User
- Aesthetic, Innovative
- Sustainable practices
- System and services

and

- Way of thinking
- Connecting Dots

Approach and process

- Collaborative and participatory
- Slow
- Re visit

Tradition

Indigenous

Transient

Always evolving never
stagnant

Practiced by generations

Livelihood

Traditional knowledge is
specific to one community
and the identification is
formed through the
practices and available
resources



Traditional practices

Dokra is non-ferrous metal casting using the **lost-wax casting** technique. This sort of metal casting has been used in India for over 4,000 years and is still used.



By Hand...Embroidery of Lambani women necessity as well as livelihood

The clothes of the Lambanis reflect their love of life and evolved across the centuries to suit local climatic and social conditions.

A unique facet of the costume of the Lambani woman is **its elaborate embroidery**. This is usually combined with mirror work to produce the glitter and colour that are integral parts of the Lambani costume.



From personal use to creating livelihood

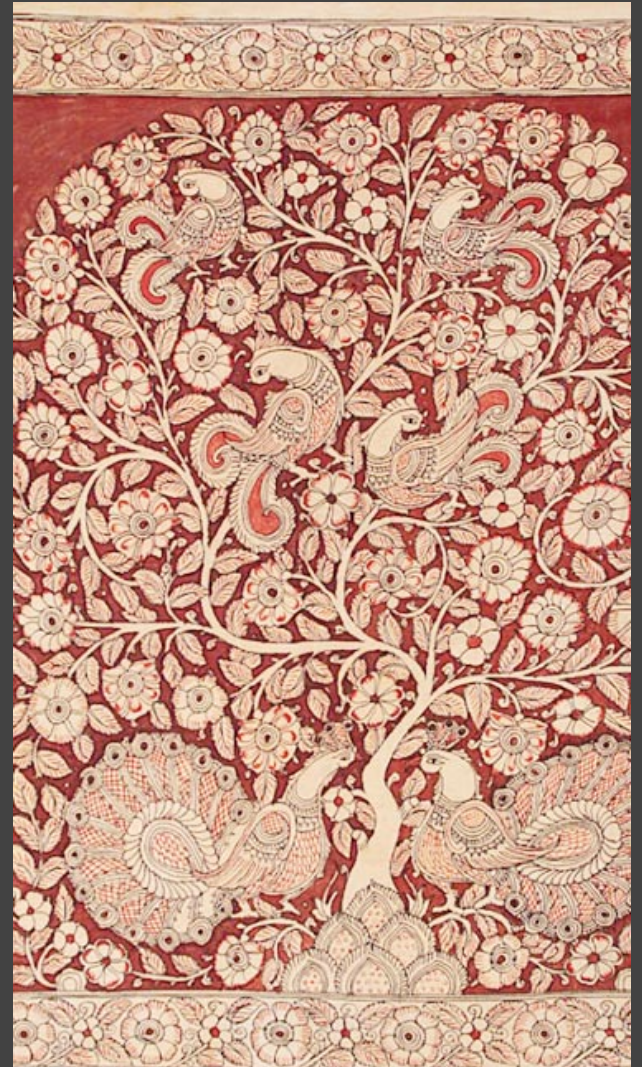
Today the embroidery work is not just for creating a trousseau for the bride. There are many self help groups involving women who create embroidery for Fashion and Home accessories.



Kalamkari

Kalamkari is an exquisite ancient craft of painted and printed fabrics.

Kalamkari painting is a very time consuming process of resist – dyeing and hand printing.



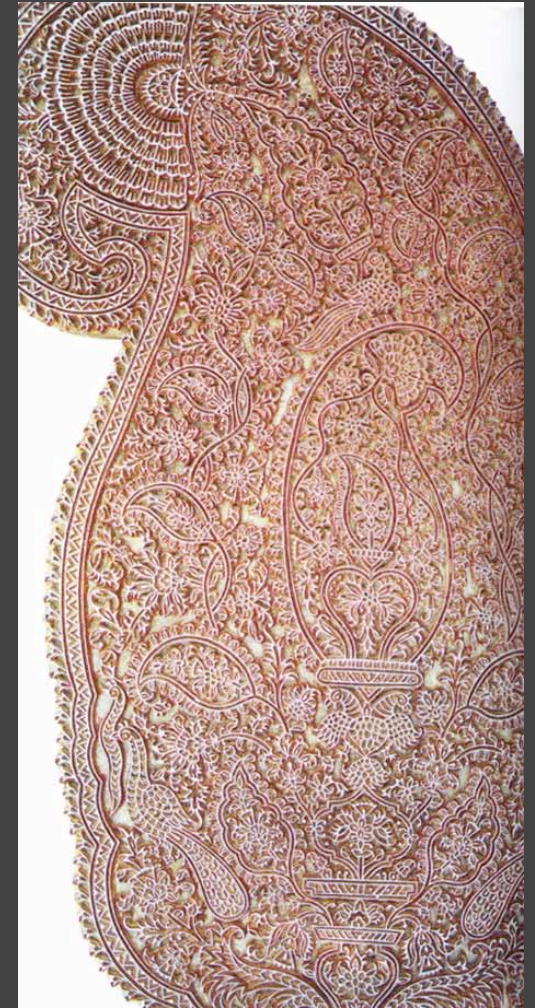
Some examples..

There is huge succession of stages before the final stage can be arrived at. Kalamkari painting does require a lot of treatment before and after the painting is completed on the cotton fabric.



Present scenario

From narrative scrolls and panels to textile art pieces, Kalamkari has come a long way. Today it is used in apparels, sarees, upholstery, furnishings and accessories, etc. The patterns are produced through **block print** as well.



Channapatna Toys

Channapatna toys are a particular form of wooden toys (and dolls) that are manufactured in the town of **Channapatna** in the Bangalore Rural district of Karnataka state, India. This traditional craft is protected as a **geographical indication (GI)** under the World Trade Organization. Traditionally, the work **involved lacquering the wood** of the *Wrightia tinctoria* tree, colloquially called *Aale mara* (ivory-wood)



Process....

Manufacturing stages include procuring the wood, seasoning the wood, cutting the wood into the desired shapes, pruning and carving the toys, applying the colors and finally polishing the finished product. Vegetable dyes are used in the colouring process to ensure that the toys and dolls are safe for use by children



With no proper backing or marketing, the Channapatna toy industry faced a financial crunch for more than a decade and was almost on the verge of dying out.

New ideas....



Tea Lights



Toys for children



Souvenirs



Rituals and Performances

Yakshagana is a theater form that combines, dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up and stage techniques with a unique style and form



Traditional Knowledge

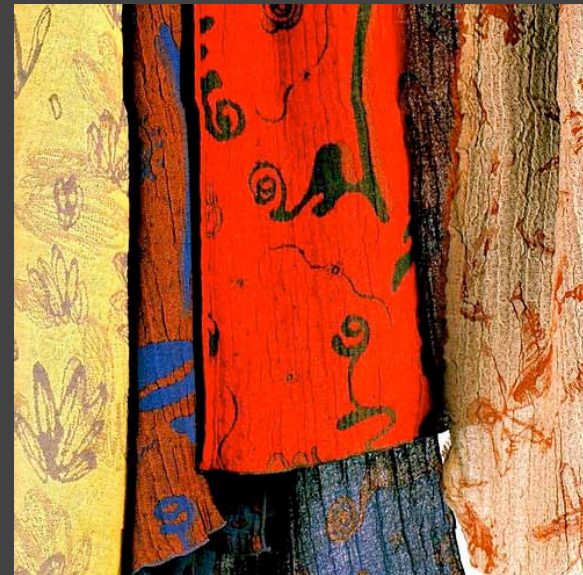
From a traditional practice the art of Bandhani or Tie dye has moved from functional fabrics to high fashion statement. The craftsmen still use the age old techniques and innovate along generations according to need and market.



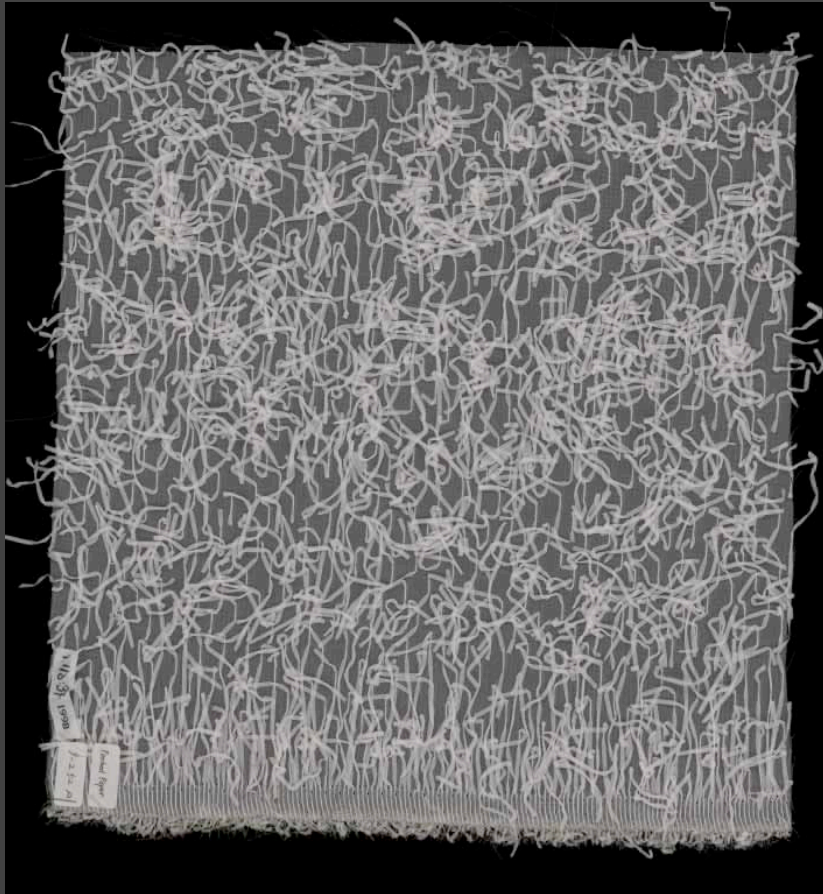
Innovation in Textiles: Nuno Fabrics by Junichi Arai

"We weave new ideas"

NUNO textiles established by **Junichi Arai and Reiko Sudo** the fabrics are incredibly beautiful to look at and handle, but are also practical having applications for both fashion and interior. The textiles frequently combine inherent properties of **natural yarns with synthetic fibres, and traditional techniques** with the very latest **sophisticated advances in technology**. The fabrics are **industrially produced; not hand-woven or art pieces**.



Some images..



Patched Paper: Woven Polyester
with hand made paper

Rust Dyeing



Tradition and Innovation

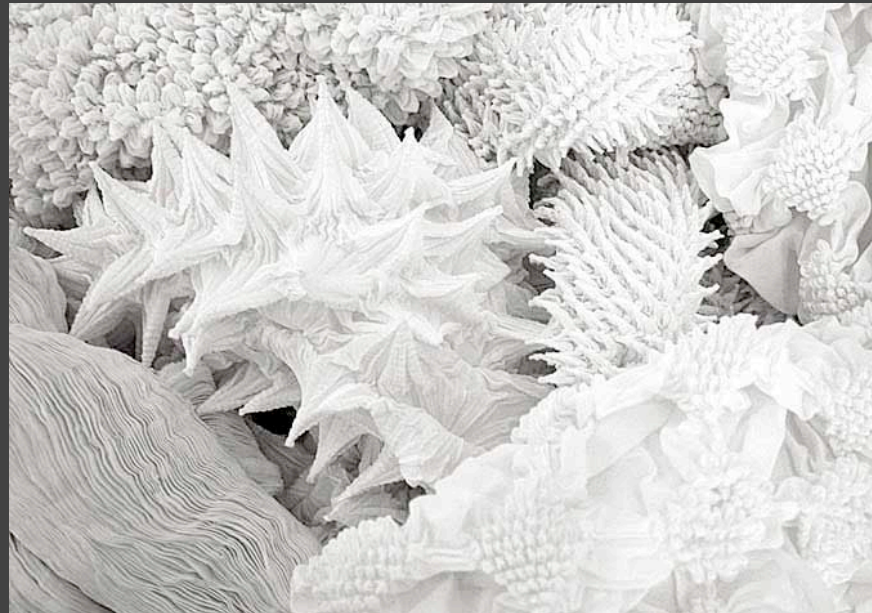
For a textile installation in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Tokyo, Nuno Corp. merged cotton with hand-torched stainless steel mesh



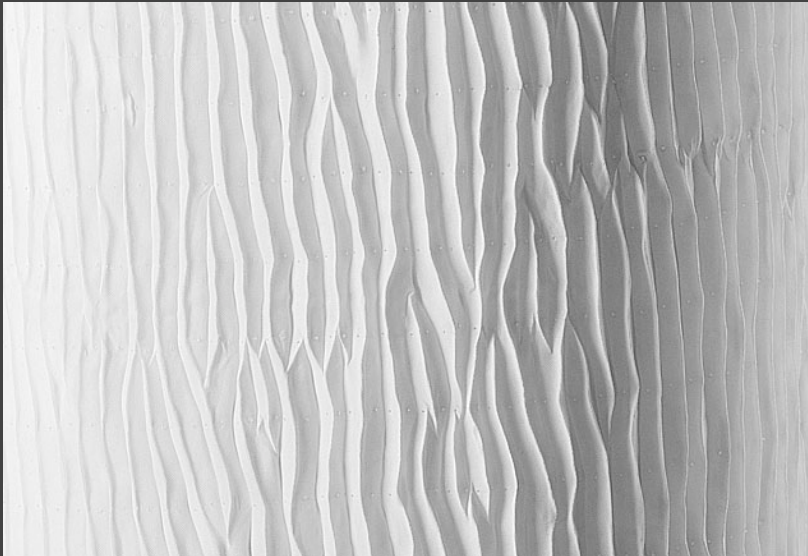
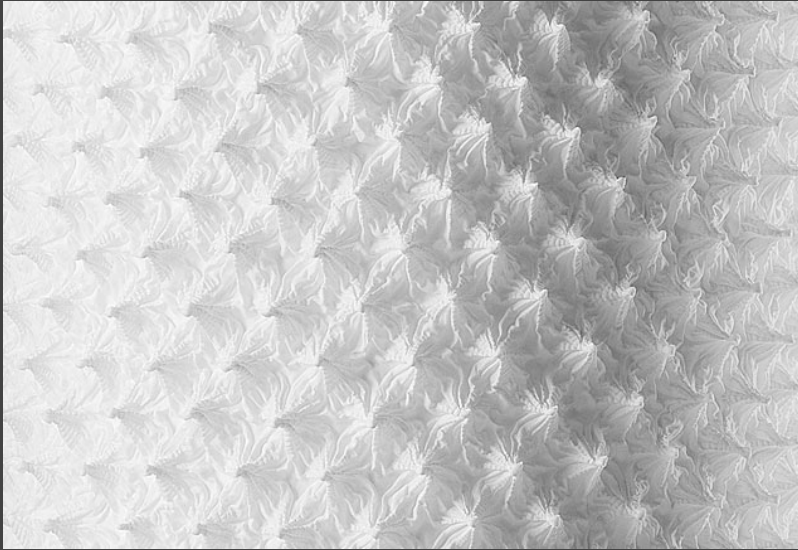
Nuno Corp.'s installation "Deep Roots" in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Tokyo.

Innovation using Traditional Shibori technique

Suzusan company uses traditional **shibori** techniques to create a **contemporary range of products** for home and fashion. Owned by Master Hiroshi Murase, 4th Generation Shibori craftsman specializes in creating playfully light-weight materials and colourful designs



Innovation using traditional knowledge



Luminaries by Suzushan Shibori

Design and Innovation : Life Straw

High-tech straw cleans dirty drinking water. Designed by Vestergaard Frandsen, a Swiss based company for people living in developing nations and for distribution in humanitarian crisis.



Design and Innovation

Daily dump started by Poonam Bir Kasthuri is involved in creating solution for effective garbage management using simple solutions. Using the traditional pottery techniques the company has designed **products, services as well as systems**



Home Composters



Community Composters



Leaf & Flower Composters

Leaf Composter

Trash Trail: One day tour of how garbage is segregated in Bangalore

Urban Farming with vertical garden

Vertical Gardens and urban farming are gaining popularity to bring in more green into urban environment.

Vertical gardens are designed as a system as well as a product .



Vertical garden at Jaaga in Bangalore

Vertical Gardens



On Conclusion...

While compiling the presentation a few thoughts pondered my mind

Often we refer to what was done in the past and **reinterpret** and **re-present** in a new way to suit the modern world. In this workshop we are looking at ways of recognizing the gaps or loopholes in both tradition and technology and it is important bring Innovations in thinking.

Personally I feel appreciating **Imperfection and Asymmetry.....**

By **Taking time to slow down** and
practicing **Emptiness and Stillness** and

Editing unnecessary elements is essential for an art and design practitioner