

IKAI ASAI



crafts of

IKAI ASAI

Ikai Asai is dedicated to seamlessly uniting the richness of heritage materials, innovative techniques and contemporary designs, enabling you to create a distinctive identity.

Our design philosophy revolves around a modern aesthetic sensibility. We take immense pride in offering bespoke solutions and signature pieces tailored for modern living.

Our vision is to cultivate a nurturing environment where artists, craftspeople, and designers can collaboratively express, experiment, and develop a universal creative language.



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LONGPI POTTERY



LONGPI POTTERY

Originally known as Longpi Ham, this ebony-hued pottery is crafted by the Tangkhul Naga Tribe in a tiny hamlet of Manipur. Handmade by craftspeople of this tribe, our design intervention has transformed Longpi into everyday use and decor items, expanding beyond its traditional kitchen use and optimizing its inherent eco-friendly functionality.

LONGPI POTTERY

the process



Skilled artisans adeptly blend the black clay and stones native to their hamlet, allowing the prepared clay dough to mature before effortlessly shaping the refined mixture into a beautiful assortment of pottery.





The artisan mixes the powdered Serpentine stone and the local clay (*Lishun Lun*) after grinding, sieving, and mixing these raw materials in the required proportion.



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A close-up photograph of a traditional Indian iron furnace, known as Kansa Kaam. The furnace is a reddish-brown, cylindrical metal vessel with a smooth interior. A long, dark metal rod is inserted into the top opening. The furnace is set on a dark, textured surface, possibly a brick or stone. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the metal and the interior of the furnace.

KANSA KAAM



KANSA KAAM

One of the earliest metal alloys, Kansa was first used in objects during the Bronze Age around 5000 years ago by the Harappans, inhabitants of the Indus Valley. With its roots in Ayurveda, the ancient science of health and longevity practiced in the East, Kansa holds significant spiritual importance even in modern times.

KANSA KAAM

the process



Artisans here put Kansa ingots through a rigorous process of heating, beating, and shaping to achieve their final form. Revered for its healing properties, Kansa metalwork is widely chosen for food utensils and water vessels.





Regarded as veritably pure, rustic Kansa utensils find use in significant religious ceremonies like *Havanas* and weddings. Artisans proficient in Kansa craftsmanship inherit their skills from ancestors, executing the craft with sincerity and reverence.

Today, Kansa is created from a blend of 78% copper and 22% tin, heated to 700 degrees Celsius to form pure bronze. Its adaptable nature allows artisans to mold it into handcrafted objects with various intricate patterns and finishes.





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DHOKRA



DHOKRA

Named after the 'Dhokar Damar,' a nomadic tribe from West Bengal, parts of Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, Dhokra craft is an enduring art form with a history spanning almost 4,000 years. This craft showcases splendid artistry demonstrated by skilled craftspeople who have followed these traditional methods for generations. It highlights a rich cultural tradition where creative minds express unique art forms through intricate and enduring designs.

DHOKRA

the process



As a metal casting art, the process involves extracting metal from minerals, combining different soils, preparing molds, pouring metal into these molds for shaping, adding wax threads, and finishing with a potassium solution to achieve final textures and hues.



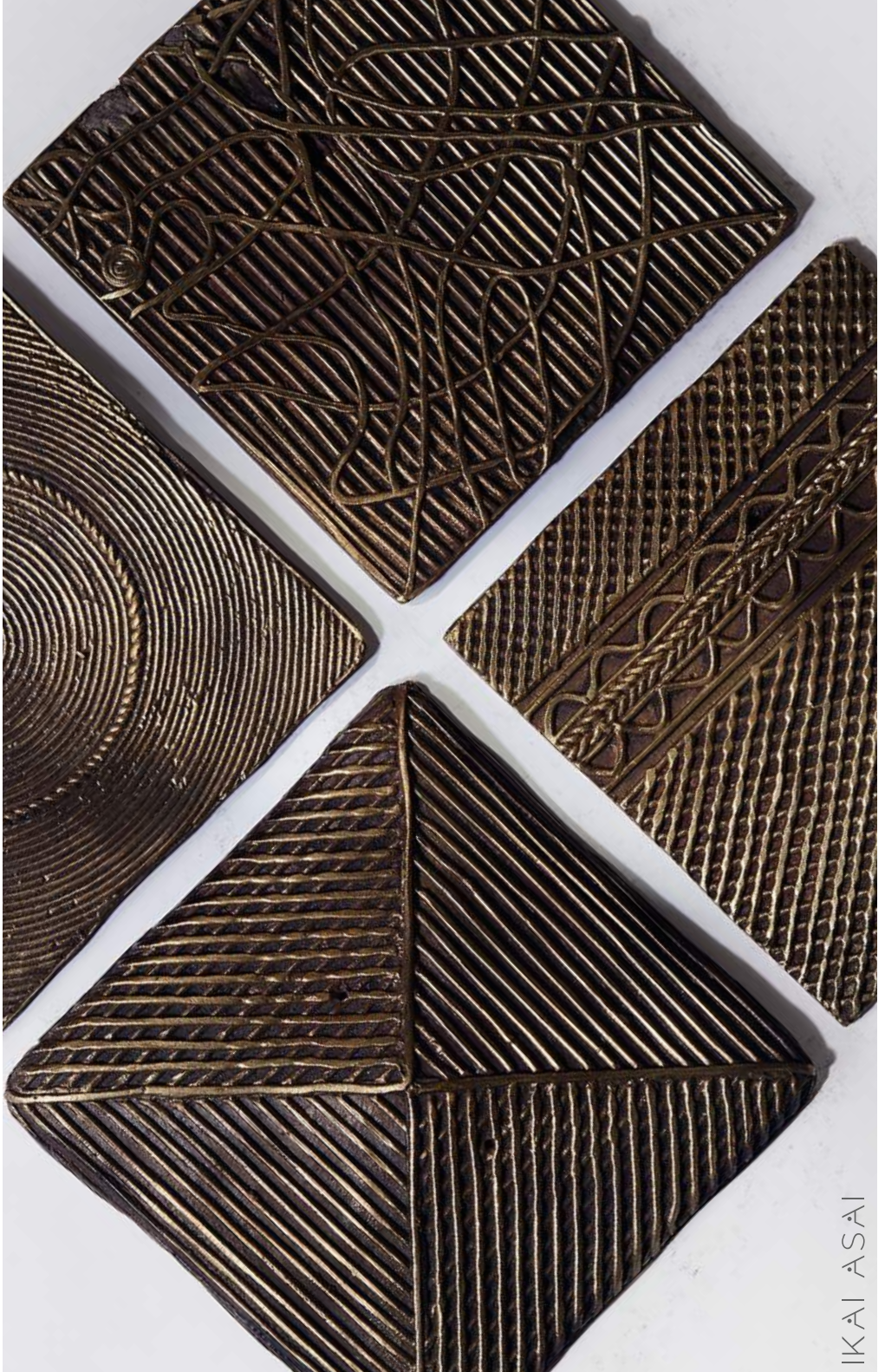


Artisans craft exquisite pieces using riverbed clay, riverside clay, and cow dung, along with essential raw materials like beeswax and brass.

Creating Dhokra art demands shaping of clay, delicate coiling of beeswax, and careful recoating with clay before the final brass casting.







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A close-up photograph of a potter's hands shaping a large, wide-mouthed bowl on a pottery wheel. The potter is wearing a blue shirt and has their hands covered in wet, greyish clay. The bowl is in the process of being formed, with visible horizontal ridges from the wheel. The background shows a workshop setting with shelves holding various pottery pieces.

WHITE TERRACOTTA

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WHITE TERRACOTTA

In the heart of Kutch, artisans masterfully harness the essence of human creativity through terracotta craftsmanship. Utilizing Khadiya mitti, a whitish clay indigenous to the region, alongside Than mitti and Chunjo Pado, they faithfully follow time-honored blending methods. These clays, each with unique traits, are methodically combined in specific proportions, ensuring exacting finishing touches. The culmination of these clay varieties results in a distinctive pale whitish-yellowish hue, synonymous with the rich heritage of the Kutch region.

WHITE TERRACOTTA

the process



In crafting white terracotta pieces, artisans primarily rely on a throwing wheel due to the clay's challenging nature for hand-building. Remarkably, modern artisans have pushed the boundaries of their craft, venturing into creating larger-scale objects. This expansion marks a significant milestone in the evolution of this traditional art form.





Terracotta, the Italian term for 'baked earth,' is traditionally crafted from natural red plastic clay indigenous to its specific regions. In contrast, white terracotta represents a modern adaptation of the classic rust-colored pottery. It is created by blending base clay (than mitti) as a binding agent, khadiya mitti primarily for color balance, and chunjo pado, a local stone known for its strength.





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BIDRI



BIDRI

Originating in the 14th century under the Bahamani Sultans' rule, Bidri art boasts a distinctive matte black surface, achieved through a soil sourced from the depths of the Bidar fort ruins.

BIDRI

the process



Each Bidri piece is adorned with thin silver and copper wires, intricately inlaid into the motifs, creating a stunning contrast against the dark background. It's the exquisite craftsmanship and the unique qualities of Bidar soil that truly make this art form exceptionally rare.





In the skilled hands of artisans in Bidar, Karnataka, silver wire is meticulously inlaid into a zinc base, creating works of art.






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CHANNAPATNA

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CHANNAPATNA

The origins of this craft can be traced back to the era of Tipu Sultan, who invited artisans from Persia to teach local craftsmen the art of creating wooden toys. This unique craft flourished in Channapatna, Karnataka, becoming a celebrated tradition in the region.

CHANNAPATNA

the process



Channapatna toys are not only eco-friendly but also crafted using non-toxic vegetable color dyes. Over time, this craft has evolved to encompass various shapes and forms, showcasing its adaptability and creativity.

The distinctive lacquered look and feel of Channapatna toys stem from the unique materials and techniques employed in their creation, making them not just visually appealing but also environmentally conscious and safe for all.





Locally grown and produced ivory wood, which is expertly turned on a lathe to construct the intricate Channapatna sections.





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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a translucent, light-colored glass vase. The vase is being worked on a lathe, with a dark, polished wooden wheel visible in the lower-left foreground. The person is wearing a camouflage-patterned shirt. The background is a blurred workshop setting. The word "GLASS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the center of the image.

GLASS



GLASS

Firozabad, located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, is renowned for its production of glass bangles and practical glassware. In this region, we collaborate with families deeply rooted in generations of glassware manufacturing expertise.

Through the skilled hands of our craftspeople, our design concepts come to life, transforming into a stunning array of glassware, barware, and lighting components.

GLASS

the process



The process involves inflating molten glass with a blowpipe, creating a glass bubble that is skillfully shaped into practical and artistic glassware.





During glass blowing, a skilled artisan picks up molten glass from the kiln and inflates it through a blowpipe, all while maintaining constant motion and precision.



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MARBLE

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MARBLE

India's marble carving tradition, spanning centuries, is renowned for its exquisite craftsmanship and intricate designs. Skilled artisans have mastered the art of shaping raw marble into stunning sculptures, delicate *jali* (lattice) work, and architectural wonders. Rajasthan, abundant with marble quarries, stands as a hub of marble carving excellence. Makrana, a town in Rajasthan, is particularly prominent for producing some of the world's finest marble. Its pure white color and fine grain make it highly sought after, serving as our primary marble selection.

MARBLE

the process



The process of marble carving begins with careful selection of the marble, chosen for its color and qualities tailored to the intended use and design. The chosen design is then meticulously transferred onto the marble block's surface. Artisans employ an array of tools to mark the outlines, establishing a reference for the carving process. Initial carving entails removing excess marble to create a rough outline of the design. This precise work is performed using handheld chisels, mallets, and cutting tools, demanding a steady hand and an in-depth understanding of the stone's grain and texture.





Following the rough outline, artisans move on to the detailed carving phase, requiring exceptional precision. Intricate patterns, motifs, and textures are carefully carved into the marble at this stage, using smaller chisels and specialized tools. Once the desired level of detail is achieved, the surface undergoes smoothing and polishing using abrasives and sandpaper. This painstaking process not only enhances the marble's natural luster but also refines the intricacies of the design, resulting in a work of art that showcases both skill and beauty.





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