



Lippan Kaam in Transition: Documenting, Preserving, and Innovating the Mud Mirror Craft of Kutch

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Abstract: India's cultural heritage is deeply rooted in diverse art and craft traditions that sustain rural livelihoods and preserve community identity. Among these, the mud mirror work of Kutch, Gujarat — locally known as Lippan Kaam — is renowned for its intricate motifs and aesthetic appeal. Traditionally practised to decorate homes, the craft now faces the challenge of survival in a globalised market. This research documents the origin, history, raw materials, processes, and symbolic motifs of mud painting while exploring pathways for its revival through contemporary design. A descriptive research design was employed, using interviews, observation, and photographic documentation of artisans from Bhuj district, Kutch. The researcher adapted traditional motifs into modern design layouts using CAD software, enabling innovative composition while retaining cultural authenticity. The findings show that integrating heritage craft into contemporary design not only preserves cultural identity but also opens new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and enhanced market access. Consumer-oriented innovation, supported by design technology, thus offers a meaningful bridge between tradition and modernity, sustaining the continued relevance of mud art in contemporary contexts.

Keywords: Mud mirror work, craft documentation, CAD adaptation, sustainable livelihoods, design innovation, motif symbolism.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15157/tultechbook.2.c6>

