Design Resource
Coconut Shell Painting - Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
Artistic Skill of the Orissa
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Sowmya B. N.
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/coconut-shell-paint-ing-bhubaneshwar-orissa

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Introduction

Orissa has a long tradition of painting from prehistoric times. Painting in Orissa is still a living tradition. The artistic skill of the Orissa artists is quite unsurpassable in the world. The artists were patronized by landlords and kings, leaving them free to scale new heights in creativity in all fields of visual arts. Orissa had many unique art forms and expert master artisans. Skill have been traditionally passed down generations within the family. However with not enough returns from traditional arts and diminishing interest from the younger generations of some of the traditional families, the artist lot has been a decreasing population.

Bhubaneswar, the Cathedral City was once the capital of an ancient Kalinga Kingdom. Bhubaneswar meaning the Lord of the universe is also the modern capital of Orissa. In Bhubaneswar, Shiva is known as Tribuhuvaneswara or Lord of the Three Worlds, from which the city derives its name.

Coconut shell is the strongest part covered in coconut fruit. Coconut shell is located in between the coconut flesh and coconut husk. This shell is naturally created to protect the inner part of coconut. This shell is use to produce various handicrafts applies and other applications. Most of handmade decorative are created by using coconut shell due to their strength. Instead of wasting the coconut shell reutilize the coconut shell by making artistic craft like hanging painted coconut. Coconut shell painting is a fascinating craft and also people use for worship. Coconut shell painting, usually involves acrylic colours which have good properties. Acrylic paint is a fast drying paint containing pigment suspension in acrylic polymer emulsion. Acrylic paints can be diluted with water, but become water-resistant when dry.

Coconut shell has biological function as the protector of the main fruit. Located in the inner side of the coconut fiber with its thickness around 3-6 mm. Coconut shell can be categorized as hard wood, yet has higher lignin level and lower cellulose level, and water level about 6-9% and especially composed of lignin, cellulose, and hemi-cellulose.

Coconut shell painting is used as a hanging painted coconut. Coconut shell painting is used in shop and home to protect from the evil eye. The specialty of coconut shell painting is a paintings are made by without any rough sketch and it is directly made by using different types of brush with perfect painting.

Coconut shell painting involves the Gods and Goddesses of Orissa namely Lord Jagannath (a form of Krishna), Lord Balabhadra and Maa Subhadra, in the colors black, white and yellow respectively, are worshiped.

Artisan Mr. Chinthamani Maharana who resides in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. He learned this work from his father and he has 15 years of experience in painting. He owns Jay Jagannath Art and Crafts shop in Orissa. He also make the image of Lord Jagannath making in pure Neem wood.

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Coconut shell being enameled in multicolor.

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Beetle nuts are stuck to each other to form a pretty doll and are kept for drying.

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Monochrome work on coconut shell.

Artist renders the fine details of the craft.

Artisan engrossed in making a wonderful coconut shell artwork.

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The article that has been published in print media regarding the artisan and the craft they work upon.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for coconut shell painting:

• Coconut Shell: The painting is done upon the coconut shell.

• Brushes: Different sizes of brushes are used as per the design to be painted.

• Color: Acrylic colors are used in coconut shell painting.

• Synthetic Adhesive: White adhesive used to make a paste and to join the halved coconut shell.

• Cloth: It Is used to wrap over the jointed portion of the coconut shell to avoid breakage. Mud color cotton cloth is used.

• Tamarind Seed Powder: It is used as a sticking agent for paste preparation.

• Paste: A mixture of white adhesive and tamarind seed powder, small amount of water is used to make a paste.

• 3D Cone Outliner: Its Used for the ornamentation of the paintings.

Coconut shell is the main raw material that is used for crafting this beautiful art.

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Synthetic adhesive is used for attaching the shells of coconut.

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Paints are used for enameling the coconut shells.

Painting brush is used while applying the paint on the shells.

3D outliner is used for the beautification purpose.

A paste of tamarind seed and synthetic adhesive.

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Chisel is used for smoothening the surface of coconut shells.

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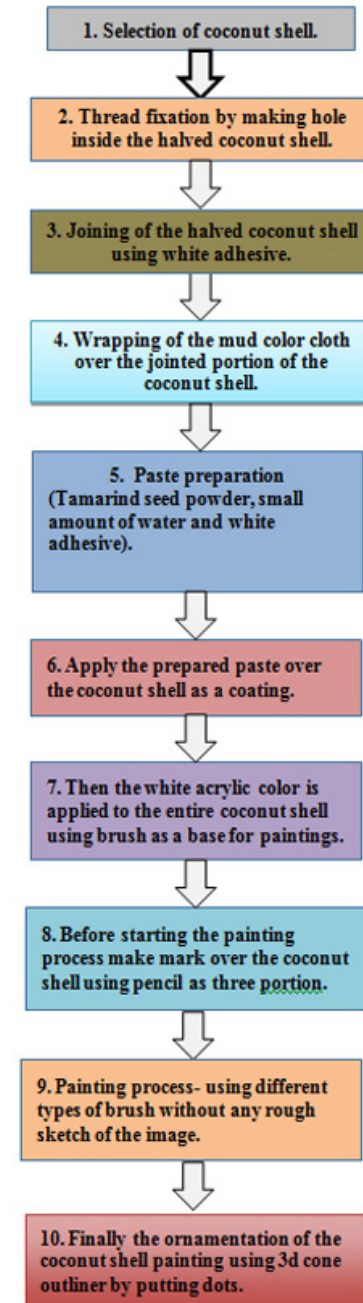Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Sowmya B. N.
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Source:
http://www.dsource.in/resource/coconut-shell-paint-ing-bhubaneshwar-orissa/making-process

Making Process

First artisan choose the right shell for the product that has to be developed. Normally artisan choose the coconut shell which is perfectly middle halved and already smoothened outer surface. The first process is to fix or tie the thread inside the coconut shell by making hole, before joining the halved coconut shell. Then the halved coconut shell is joined by using white adhesive. After joining the halved coconut shell, the mud color cloth is wrapped over the jointed portion or middle portion of the coconut shell using synthetic adhesive to avoid breakage. Now the complete shell is prepared to paint.

Before starting the painting process the coconut shell is coated with a paste. The paste is prepared by mixing tamarind seed powder and white synthetic adhesive, small amount of water. Once the paste is prepared is applied over the complete shell as a coating. Then the white color acrylic paste is applied over the entire coconut shell as a background for painting. Before starting the painting process divide the coconut shell as three portion by marking over the coconut shell using pencil. Because the coconut shell paint depicts God and Goddesses of Orissa namely Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Maa Subhadra. Artisan starts painting directly using different types of brush without any rough sketch of the image. Finally the ornamentation of the painting is made by using 3d cone outliner as a dot on the painting.

1. Selection of coconut shell.
2. Thread fixation by making hole inside the halved coconut shell.
3. Joining of the halved coconut shell using white adhesive.
4. Wrapping of the mud color cloth over the jointed portion of the coconut shell.
5. Paste preparation (Tamarind seed powder, small amount of water and white adhesive).
6. Apply the prepared paste over the coconut shell as a coating.
7. Then the white acrylic color is applied to the entire coconut shell using brush as a base for paintings.
8. Before starting the painting process make mark over the coconut shell using pencil as three portion.
9. Painting process- using different types of brush without any rough sketch of the image.
10. Finally the ornamentation of the coconut shell painting using 3d cone outliner by putting dots.

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Fine textured coconut shells are selected and applied synthetic adhesive on its openings.

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Then the two part of the shell are attached to each other.

Synthetic adhesive is applied on the piece of cloth.

Whole cloth is evenly glued.

It is further pasted on the joining of the coconut shells.

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Further the paste of tamarind seeds powder mixed with synthetic adhesive is applied upon the coconut shell completely.

It is then allowed to dry for a while.

White paint is applied on it as the first coat.

Again for the color consistency, the whole shell is repainted in white.

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Further it is allowed to dry completely.

Then the markings are made on it according to the design.

As per the pencil markings, the outline of the design is drawn in paint.

A glimpse of coconut shell on which the outlines are drawn.

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The fine detailed outlines are drawn.

Colors are further filled inside the border area.

Sometimes 3D outliners are used for decorative purpose.

A close-up of the 3D outlining.

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Thus the final product gets prepared and kept for sale.

Products

A lot of these products have remained in their traditional form. Animals like horses, elephants and cows as well as The coconut shell paintings are made with appropriate measurement and sold as hanging painted coconut for home and shop to protect from evil eye and for worship. Only an experienced painter would be successful to maintain perfect painting. Coconut shell painting depicts Gods and Goddesses of Orissa with particular color.

Another product namely patachitra on three sides of coconut which involves tales from the beginning of Rama-yana.

Multicolored coconut shell artwork.

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Flower designed border that encircles the painting of Lord Jagannath on coconut shell.

Sai Baba painted on the coconut shell and is packed for sales.

A unique pattern of Lord Jagannath painted on the coconut shell.

Coconut shell beautified by drawing only the outlines on it.

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Lord Puri Jagannath idols made of wood.

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Video

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Contact Details

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