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# **Drishti Gombe Making -**Bengaluru, Karnataka Evil Force Defender

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Hariharasudan T. NID Campus, Bengaluru

#### Source:

http://www.dsource.in/resource/drishti-gombe-making-bengaluru-karnataka

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Tools and Raw Materials
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#### Introduction

"Eye is the window to the Soul". Perhaps the real truth is that it is the window of intent. The eye is our most powerful organ in social interaction. We are fixated on it, and we use it against others to show our emotion. The evil eye is a human look believed to cause harm to someone or something else. The supernatural harm may come in the form of anything from a minor misfortune to disease, injury or even death. The best way to understand the concept of evil eye is to accept the idea of auras. Every human being has an aura around him or her. This is known as the subtle body. It is a kind of energy shield emerging from our physical and mental health status. There are various layers of aura that flows around our body. When the flow is blocked, disturbed or restricted by the negative energy, it causes ill effects.

Attempt to ward off the curse of the evil eye has resulted in a number of talismans in many cultures. Disks or balls consisting of concentric blue and white circles representing an evil eye are common apotropaic talismans in West Asia, Mediterranean regions. In Turkey it's known as Nazar found in or on houses and vehicles. The blood-red demonic face with horns, smiling at you with a menacing glee which is visible on house terraces and construction sites, and on almost every truck, lorry and auto rickshaw in varying styles is nothing but a Drishti doll/ Drishti Gombe. This doesn't have a discovery date, the custom of hanging a Drishti Gombe is centuries old and has been passed on from generation to generation with almost no variations, which is unique to India. This belief rests not only in India, but also among the people of the Latin America, West Africa, Central Asia, Europe and Mediterranean countries. Legend has that this belief had its genesis amongst the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians.

Custom is that by hanging the Drishti Gombe or doll in India or blue eye symbol in Mediterranean countries, it protects the owner from misfortune and jealous onlookers and wards off the evil eyes. In turkey people believe that a symbol in the same shape as an evil force can deflect the evil away, much like the best antidotes to snake poison are often made from the poison itself. The Evil Eye has such a long and broad history that it is hard to tie it to one religion. There are references to the Evil Eye in Sumerian cuneiform texts from 3,000 BC, from where it became the Hebrew 'ayin harah, the Greek baskania and the Roman fascinatio. At the beginning of the modern era, thinkers such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Martin Luther, and Thomas Aquinas wrote about the Evil Eye in religious and scientific terms.

Here let us see how the drishti doll, which is seen all over India, is being made.

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Artisan named Aslaram who is working almost for 5 to 7 years on making Drishti dolls.



Dedication of the artisan gains the velocity of work.



Felicity on the artisan face after the completion of Drishti doll.

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Two different types of patterns are being used in making the dolls this takes up to 36 hours to dry completely.

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#### **Tools and Raw Materials**

Following are the tools and raw materials required for drishti doll making:

- Plaster of Paris (POP): Main ingredient used in making the doll.
- Water: It is used to along with pop to make a mixture.
- Coir: It is used for strengthening purpose.
- Binding Wire: It is used to make a hook for hanging purpose.
- Mold: It is used to make the dolls.
- Scissors: It is used to trim the excess material from the doll.
- Paint: It is used to highlight the features on the doll.



Depicted rubber mold with a base support of plaster of paris to get the shape.

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Plaster of paris powder is being used to mold.



Water is used to mix the powder of plaster of paris in thick density.



Coir is mixed with plaster of paris while molding to give strength.

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Knife to lacerate the outline of a Dhristi doll after it is being removed from the mold.

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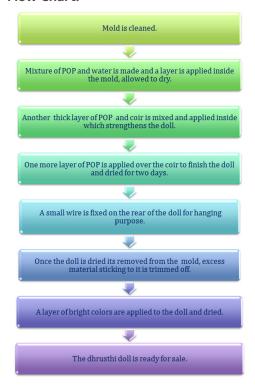
### **Making Process**

The dolls are handmade using clay and baked in a kiln or made by pouring Plaster of Paris (PoP) into a mold and painted fearsome with black, red and yellow. The process starts by cleaning the mold and mixing the pop with water to slurry like consistency. An initial layer of pop is coated inside the mold and the excess is removed and allowed to dry for few minutes.

Another layer of coir mixed with pop is applied inside the mold for reinforcement and strengthening of the doll and allowed to dry for few minutes. Another layer of a pop water mixture is applied over the coir to cover it completely. A small binding wire is fixed on the rear of the doll for hanging purpose. And the allowed to dry for some time and later removed and sun dried to two days.

Once the mold is completely dry, the excess material sticking to the doll is removed by trimming them. A layer of bright color paint is applied on the doll and allowed to dry. Once the paint is dry its ready for sale.

#### Flow Chart:



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Artisan is pouring limited amount of water into a large stainless steel bowl.



Artisan is adding required plaster of paris powder to the water.



Artisan is mixing the powder to get thick density.



Replacing the POP liquid from bowl to the rubber mold.

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Covering up the POP liquid, complete with coir.



Again giving another layer of POP liquid on the coir.



Usually the POP liquid is kept dry for around 20 minutes.



Taking off the rubber mold after it is completely dry.

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The Drishti doll is completed with a detailed face.



Artisan is notching the outline of a doll to get perfect shape.



Artisan is paring at top center of the head to make the aluminum wire visible, which has been placed to hang the Drishti doll.



The finalized Drushti dolls are kept for dry under the sun to get strong and tight.

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### **Products**

Blood-red demonic face with horns and a smile. The size of the dolls may vary from 0.5x0.5 feet in width to 2x2 feet. The price may vary from INR 250 to INR 1000. Depending on the size and the detailing involved in the doll.



The prepossessing Drishti dolls have exposed to view.

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Different pattern used on the tongue and forehead of Drishty doll is being arrayed.

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#### Video



Drishti Doll Making - Bengaluru

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#### **Contact Details**

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Hariharasudan T. at NID Campus, Bengaluru.

You can get in touch with

• Prof. Bibhudutta Baral at bibhudutta[at]nid.edu

You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

#### **Key Contacts:**

Shri. Chandrappa, Senior Craftsperson Street Crafts Bengaluru, Kerala India

Mobile: +91 97432 03929

#### **Helpdesk Details:**

Co-ordinator
Project e-kalpa
R & D Campus
National Institute of Design
#12 HMT Link Road, Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru 560 022
India

Phone: +91 80 2357 9054 Fax: +91 80 23373086

Email: dsource.in[at]gmail.com