

Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat>



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/introduction>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

## Introduction

Kathputli that means a puppet which is made from wood. Whereas the words kath means 'wood' and putli means 'a doll or toy'. The craft of making Kathputli, was practiced by a community of performing artists. The stories that they portray through the Kathputlis have been passed through the words of mouth from parents and grandparents. These performing artists travels from place to place by carrying their portable theatres and entertaining gatherings with the portrayals of the adventures of native heroes in exchange for reward in cash, livestock or a portion of the sponsor's harvest. This form of entertainment became popular with the royal courts, the community people settled in different kingdoms by developing puppets in the image of the ruler, the queen and the members of royal court such as the court dancer, snake charmers, acrobats, ministers and magicians and narrates a story of the king's bravery, kindness and numerous conquests. They are prospered under the benefaction of kings like Vikramaditya, prithviraj Chauhan and Amar Singh Rathod.

Primarily 'Putli Bhats' discovered this art form. Kathputli art form was not only the source of entertainment but also they taught society the social and moral education. The act portrays a major social issues like dowry system, women empowerment, unemployment, poverty and hygiene. The best thing about the act was they just not portrayed the problems but also provided the solution to tackle these problems. A special stage is designed by the puppeteer for the show. Going back in the Kathputli history, the legendary that was created by the first Bhat was based on the livelihood and achievements of the Great King of Ujjain, Vikramaditya. This show involved the act of 32 kathputlis or puppets and the show became remarkable and famous. It was the medium through which they earn their bread and butter.

Kathputlis are the string puppets which are controlled by strings that passes from the top of the puppets and manipulated by the puppeteer. Kathputli involves peppy colours, sharp facial features, dexterous moves, squeaking voices in a typical traditional attire, performing in front of the viewers. Artisan Mr. Ramesh Bhat basically from Rajasthan but he settled in Ahmedabad, who got this unique skill of making Kathputli from his ancestors. He involved in making Kathputli from past 25 years. Artisan not only sell the Kathputlis, he also does puppet shows in various places.



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/introduction>



Artisan Ramesh Bhat displaying the work.



Painted puppets is ready for the body parts to be attached.

### 1. Introduction

### 2. Tools and Raw Materials

### 3. Making Process

### 4. Products

### 5. Video

### 6. Contact Details



Artisan involved in sewing body parts of puppets.



Finally completed puppets made of neem wood.



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/tools-and-raw-materials>

## Tools and Raw Materials

- **Wooden piece (mango wood)** - A basic material for Kathputli making.
- **Customized tools and chisels** - Sharp tools and chisels are used for carving.
- **Colourful cloth** - To give a traditional attire and for clothing.
- **Needle and Thread** - These are used to stitch the fabric.
- **Scissor** - It is used to cut the fabric for stitching.
- **Waste cotton** - It is used to fill the body of the puppet.
- **Decorative materials** - Like ribbons, laces and glitters etc., are used to decorate the puppet.
- **Oil Paints** - These are used to enamel the puppet face and neck.
- **Round brush** - It is used to paint the facial features.
- **Glue** - It is used to join the fabric pieces to the puppet.



A wooden block for making kathputli.



Hammer is used to chisel out the wood.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma

NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/tools-and-raw-materials>



Varies chisels are used to craving wooden surface.



Synthetic enamel colors used for painting.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Video

6. Contact Details



Plier and scissor used for cutting cloth.



Cotton clothes are used for stuff the puppets body.

Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/making-process>

## Making Process

Kathputli show has been one of the oldest form of entertainment. Kathputli has three main parts, such as head, shoulders and hands. The head and shoulders are made of wood whereas the hands and the body are stuffed with cotton. Mango wood is the basic material for Kathputli making because mango wood is durable. Other than wood it also includes colourful fabric, waste cotton and threads. Initially artisan draw the required design using pencil and then the unwanted is chiseled out using sharp tools and chisels. The facial parts like eyes, sharp nose and lips are carved carefully. The face, neck and head of puppet is carved out of a single piece wood.

The finely carved article is oil painted in light colours like skin colour or yellow colour or white colour and the delicate details of the face like elongated and stylized eyes, sharp nose and lips are done by using thin brush. Fabric is attached to the carved and painted article. A fabric is cut in to pieces and stitched and then the fabric is stuffed with waste cotton to create the hands which are further wrapped and stitched using needle and thread. If the puppet is female, artisan drape a designed fabric on the head and skirt is attached to the body using a strong glue to give a traditional attire. The whole body is covered with bright coloured fabric to give a perfect shape to the Kathputli. Once done with clothing artisan start to decorate the puppet by using ribbons, laces and glitters etc. A string of 40 inches in length is tied to the head to hang.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details

Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/making-process>

Flow Chart:



1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Neem wood is used to carve the puppets.

The basic shape of the face is obtained.



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/making-process>



Detailing of the face is carved using a chisel tools.

Finished product yet to be painted.

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Fist coat is being painted.



After the fist coat wooden carved idol is kept under sun for drying.



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Facial detailing is drawn by artisan.



Cotton is stuff and stich to make the body parts for puppets.



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/making-process>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Hand part is attaching to the puppets.



Displaying the final product.

Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/products>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details

## Products

The Kathputli or puppetry is an ancient art form. These Kathputli's are the imitations of the royal families, royal court members and local rulers. The passion of Kathputli dates back to about 1500 years, which is an inseparable and integral part of the Indian folk culture. The Kathputli show creates an awareness and rises a question in viewers mind about Child marriage, Polio, Racism, Women empowerment and other social issues. Now a day's these Kathputli's or puppets are used for home décor and also for the performance art.



Bright colors are used to make the toys look attractive.



Red and yellow color makes the puppets more attractive.



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/products>

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. **Products**
5. Video
6. Contact Details



Puppets are beautifully embellished with embroidery work.



Puppets displayed for sale.

Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/video>

## Video



Kathputli - Gujarat

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. **Video**
6. Contact Details



Design Resource

## Kathputli Puppets - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Wooden Puppets

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Aakash Sharma  
NID, Bengaluru

### Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/kathputli-puppets-ahmedabad-gujarat/contact-details>

## Contact Details

This documentation was done by **Professor Bibhudutta Baral** and Aakash Sharma at **NID, Bengaluru**.

You can get in touch with Professor Bibhudutta Baral at [bibhudutta\[at\]nid.edu](mailto:bibhudutta[at]nid.edu).

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

### Key Contacts:

Shri Ranjit, Senior Craftsman  
Hanumanpura, Ahmedabad  
Gujarat  
Cellphone: - 09974817599

### 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](mailto:dsource.in[at]gmail.com)

1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Video
6. **Contact Details**