

Design Resource

Plaster Of Paris Idols, Bangalore

Making Artifacts

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Mr. Antony William
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/plaster-paris-idols-bangalore>

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



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Introduction

Mariyappan Palya near Mysore road is located in Bangalore. The area is well noted for POP idol making activities. Idol makers belong to the same family root and migrated from Rajasthan and have settled in Bangalore for last several years. The artisans are highly engaged in producing different kinds of POP (Plaster of Paris) idols to cater to the local and market needs. The range of their collection is available in traditional as well as contemporary styles. All the POP products are ideal for home and garden decoration purposes. Artisan uses readymade mold which is made of rubber for casting process. POP solution is poured into the rubber mold and dried. The idol after retrieved from the mold is attractively painted using different colors and gold glitters. One can see the streets of Mariyappan Palya filled with sparkling products in glittering gold and silver sheen.



A flower vase made of POP is decorated in different colors.



The rubber mold with detailed impression used in POP casting.

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Skilled artisan engaged in detailing process.



Filling the gaps with POP paste – the gaps are formed during casting process.



Different size and shapes of molds are used in POP casting.



Dark colors are attractively painted over white background.

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Dark colors are attractively painted over white background.



Dark colors are attractively painted over white background.



Glittering copper, silver and gold colors are used to decorate POP idols.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Plaster Of Paris is the main basic raw material used in idol production process. Normal water is used to mix with POP powder to make solution. The slurry POP solution is poured into rubber mold which is covered by POP mold. The POP mold which is used to cover the rubber mold is made by mixing POP paste and coconut coir. Once idol is revealed/extracted, the detailing works are done with scrapers and chisels. Finally, the idol is painted with black Japanese oil which is made by mixing Tar, varnish and kerosene. After coating black color, the idol is embellished with glittering gold, copper, silver and bronze colors. Different sizes of brushes are used while painting the idols.



Mold made of coir and POP.



Rubber mold is used for POP casting.

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POP paste is made by mixing water and POP powder.



The mold is filled with POP paste and then tightly tied using rubber strip.



Japanese black paint is used to paint on the idol.

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Making Process

POP (Plaster of Paris) idol making process consists of several steps such as Idol making, Detailing work and painting.

Idol making: POP and rubber mold are the two main important materials used for making idols. A readymade rubber mold which has design impression on it is taken and cleaned. After cleaning it is placed between two molds made of POP and coconut coir. The mold after placing the rubber mold is tightly tied. Now POP powder is properly mixed with water without forming lumps and the solution is poured into rubber mold and kept for drying under sun for 5 to 10 minutes. Once the mold is dried, again thick POP solution is poured into the rubber mold so that it (POP) takes the proper shape of the mold. The solution filled mold is dried properly under good sun light nearly 40 to 50 minutes. After drying, the mold is removed and rubber mold is peeled to reveal the POP idol. The idol is kept for drying under shade to avoid cracks.

Detailing: After drying POP idol is checked for breakages/fissures or any damages occurred during the casting process. The excess POP which is formed while making the idol is removed by scraping with small knife. Small gaps and breaks/fissures are covered by coating the idol with POP paste. Minute detailing is done on the idol by scraping with small chisel.

Painting: The prepared idol after detailing work over is then sent for painting process. Painting is done with glitter/shiny colors as well as normal Asian paint colors. Initially, the idol is painted with black Japanese color and then the glitter/shiny colors are painted by spraying on it. The jewels of idol are embellished with gold color, facial expressions are with copper color and eyes are with silver color. Finally, bronze color is used to highlight the facial features. Pink, golden yellow, ice blue, red, green colors are also used to decorate the products.



POP powder is mixed with water to make paste.



POP powder is mixed with water to make paste.

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After placing rubber mold, the mold is tightly tied with rubber strap.



The POP paste is poured into the mold.



The excess solution in the mold is removed.



Again thick POP paste is poured into the mold.

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After drying the rubber mold is removed to reveal the idol.



The closer view of the casted idol.



Idols are kept for drying under sunlight.



The gaps and cracks are being filled with POP paste.

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Artisan is removing the extra POP and shapes the idol into fine edges.



Black Japanese paint is coated on the idol.



Gold color is sprayed to embellish the jewelry.



Copper color is sprayed to the face.

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Eyes are decorated with silver color.



The painted product is kept for drying.

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Products

Beautiful idols of gods like lord Ganesha, lord Krishna and sun God are available in glittering gold, copper and silver shades. Products also include the idols of animals like elephant and deer. Idols of elephant are available in different sizes in intricate patterns. Huge flower vases are available with different motifs. Intricate flower motifs are created on almost all products. Face of a village woman is beautifully depicted on few vases. Laughing Buddha in different postures, faces of demon, beautiful decorative garden pieces and wall decorators also included in the product category. Few other readymade clay and ceramic products are also imported from other places to cater to the local needs in Bangalore.



Colorfully painted image of Gotham Buddha.



Lord Bala Krishna image in gold and silver sheen.

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Flower vase depicting village woman.



A stand casted in POP depicting angels.

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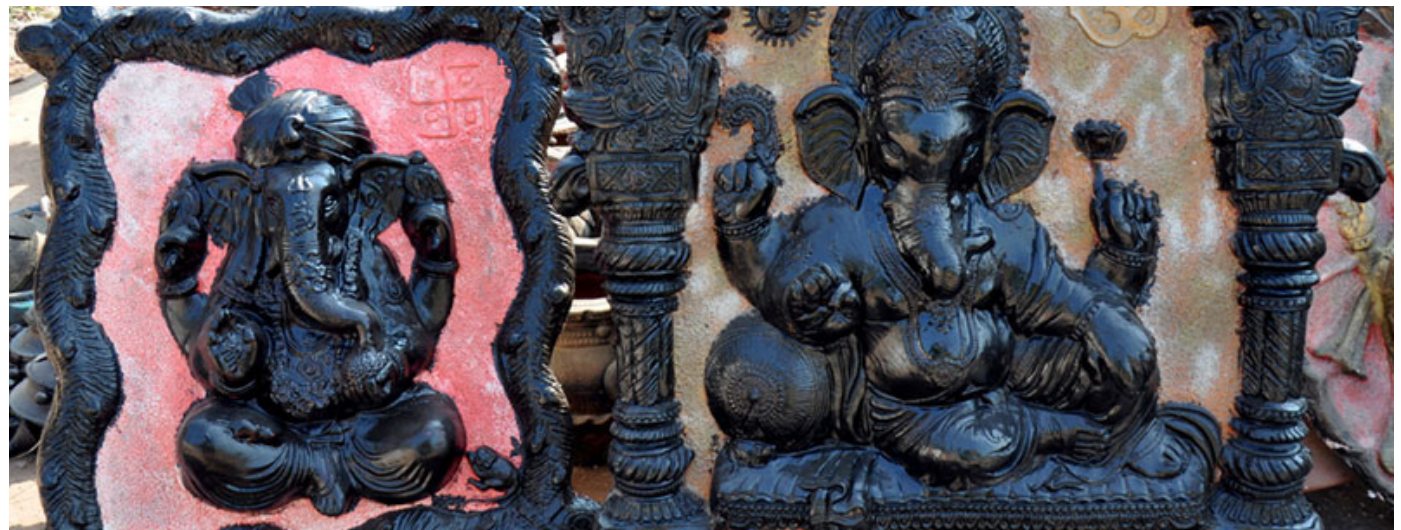
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Typical garden decorator in darker hues.



Flower vase is beautifully casted in floral motifs.



Wall frame made of POP depicting lord Ganesha.

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Contact Details

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

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