

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu>

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



Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/introduction>

Introduction

A dark area which is formed when a light source is blocked by an opaque object is called a Shadow. Shadow occupies three dimensional volumes behind an object with light in front of it. One such example is a human body standing in daylight. Since light cannot pass through the body, a dark region is formed on the ground. This dark region is called shadow. Opaque objects form clear dark shadows. A transparent object does not make any shadow as light passes straight through it. Translucent objects create faint shadows as light is able to pass only partially through them.

While the presence of absence of light is responsible for forming shadows, there are other factors related to it that determine the shape and size of the shadows. If the angle of the light is smaller, then the shadow formed will be much longer than usual. If the object is very close to the light source, larger shadows are formed and if an object is moved away from the light source, the shadow becomes smaller in size. The size of the shadows is also determined by whether the object is in motion or not. The size of the shadow is always slightly longer and larger than the moving object.

The size of the light source also plays an important role in the formation of shadows. Bigger light sources form blurry shadows. If the light source originates from various directions and points, several shadows will be formed and some of them may even overlap. Depending on the colour of the light, one will also see shadows of different shades. Coloured shadows are formed when the multi-coloured light sources produce white light.

Place:

Tamil Nadu, the epic centre of South India's cultural extravaganza is noted for a multitude of reasons ranging from its splendid temples, imposing monuments as well as an efflorescent art and culture manifested in its paintings, wood crafts and sculptures. Since ancient times, Tamil Nadu has been the focal point of art, culture and tradition. The various empires that ruled the land have left behind for posterity, a rich and varied heritage which bears testimony to the architectural grandeur and cultural heights of the various periods in history. Whether it is the splendid temples, architectural edifices, the magnificent Tanjore paintings or the revered art and dance forms, the beautiful Kanjeevaram saris or the historical monuments, Tamil Nadu holds a pride of place in the history of arts and culture in India. One such distinguished place is Swamimalai.

Swamimalai is a panchayat town near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur. District in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It lies on the banks of river Kaveri and is one of the six abodes of the Lord Muruga. Swamimalai Bronze Icons refers to bronze idols and statues manufactured in Swamimalai. It has been recognized as a Geographical indication by the Government of India in 2008-09.

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

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/introduction>

During the reign of Chola empire, Raja Raja I commissioned a group of sculptors for the construction of the Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur. The sculptors helped sculpt statues for Airavatesvara Temple and later settled at Swamimalai. Woodcraft is a burgeoning revenue generating industry in Swamimalai. The state whose skilful craftsmen once depended upon the patronage of the ancient monarchs to earn their livelihoods is now teeming with talented local villages and artisans whose expertise is manifested in the variety of indigenous artefacts created by them.

Shadow Art:

Shadow can play a very powerful role in defining form by giving the object a three-dimensional feel. In addition, artists can take good advantage of shadow to define form by highlighting how different portions of an object are at different depths and therefore the object closer to the light will cast a shadow on the more distant object. Shadows play an essential role in how we perceive the world and have for a long time captured the imagination of artists and stage performers.

Since shadows have existed since the existence of objects obstructing light, it is hard to say when the art was first used by humans for entertainment. It could have been practiced by ancient or later humans, but it probably originated in the Far East.

Shadow art is a form of storytelling and entertainment which uses flat articulated cut out figures which are held between a source of light and a translucent screen or scrim. The cut-out shapes of the objects are cut only in selected places. The real key to making shadow art isn't the shadow itself, but the light and the objects blocking the light that eventually come together to make an image in the darkness. That's why it's actually a bit surprising that so few of the artists working with this format have experimented with objects that do not block the light, but instead just manipulate it.

Colored shadows, for the most part, are generated when the multicolored light sources produce white light. If there is no white, the complementary hue for the lights that are being blocked will be reflected on the shadow. For example, if the light is blue, then the shadow that will appear is red, while for green, it can be yellow or purple, depending on the shade.

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/introduction>

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



Mr.Sadhashivan senior craftsmen with the impression of a celebrity in a handcrafted plywood sheet.



Mr.Sadhashivan recognized and awarded by various organizations for his excellent craftsmanship.



Elegant idol of Gautama Buddha.



Projected Shadow Art of Mr.DEVASENAPATHY STHAPATHY.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/introduction>

1. Introduction

2. Tools and Raw Materials

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details



Artisan paints the handmade plywood sheet of a celebrity impression.



Handmade Wood cut board of Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/tools-and-raw-materials>

Tools and Materials

Following are the tools and raw materials required for Shadow Art:

- **Print:** Print of the image to be made.
- **Carbon Paper:** To trace the image onto the plywood sheet.
- **Pencil:** It is used in tracing.
- **Plywood Sheet:** To make the object of which the shadow will be cast.
- **Paper Clips:** Clips are put to fix the paper to plywood so that there is no movement while tracing.
- **Light Source:** Any source of light which is used to produce light to fall on the object casting a shadow.
- **Micro Carving Drilling Machine:** This machine is used to carve minute details.
- **Plywood Wire Cutter (Manual):** It is used to cut the object in selected places.
- **Filer:** Filer is used to smoothen the edge of the object.
- **Paint Brush and Paints:** It is used to paint on the object. Different coloured paints are used in desired places.

1. Introduction

2. **Tools and Raw Materials**

3. Making Process

4. Products

5. Contact Details

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/tools-and-raw-materials>

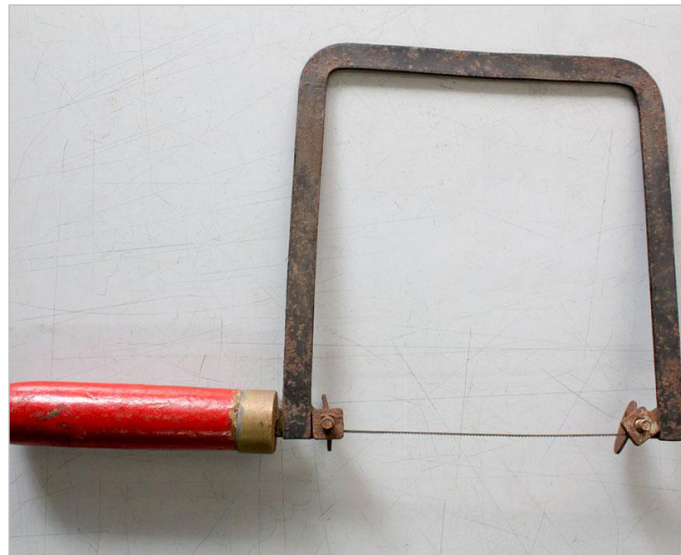
1. Introduction
2. **Tools and Raw Materials**
3. Making Process
4. Products
5. Contact Details



Plywood sheet – Used to create Art base for shadow Art.



Blade strips - Used to make fine cuts in between ply-woods.



Coping Saw - Used to remove complicated shapes and cut curves in plywood.



Complete kit used in Shadow Art including Paper clips, pencil etc.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/tools-and-raw-materials>

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



Fine File - Used to remove fine amounts of material from workpiece.



Dremel Tool - Used for cutting, grinding, sanding, buffing and shaping materials.



Drill Bits - Used to drill/make holes in the plywood.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/making-process>

Making Process

The artisan takes a picture of the image needed to be crafted. In this case the artisan prints Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's picture. Plywood sheet of the desired shape is taken next. A carbon sheet is placed on the plywood and on this the printed image paper is placed. Paper clips are placed on 4 sides to hold the sheets tightly together. And now the tracing starts.

Artisan starts tracing the outline of the image first followed by hair of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam through the image printed. He traces along the edges until he completes the complete outline. He traces the image's clothes until the bust as this is a portrait. Tie and buttons and the blazer's collar are traced. Now the artisan draws along the mouth, teeth, chin and cheeks. As the artisan is going to cut the plywood sheet using 'selected carving' method, he only traces on the places he is going to do the carving on. So for the nose he traces only the bottom of the nose. He draws only a portion of the jaw line joining with the dimples. Now the outline of eyes and eyebrows are made. Few minute details are made inside the eyeball. He finishes the tracing by giving tiny details for the hair to distinguish the texture between the face and hair.

Now the artisan with the help of micro carving drilling machine, makes holes in the chin, one place in the hair & eyeballs of the image. This will help him to pierce plywood wire cutter in the holes. Now he takes plywood wire cutter and cuts along to outline of the figure in the image. Around the hair the plywood is cut. Artisan files around the plywood sheet in the cut places to give smoothness around the place cut earlier. Now only the selected places on the face is carved out with the wire cutter. Carving around the nose and eyes are done extremely carefully because of the delicate thin lines carved.

After the carving is done, artisan uses a cloth and varnishes on the plywood sheet to give a shine to the object. Now the object is ready to use for shadow art.

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

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

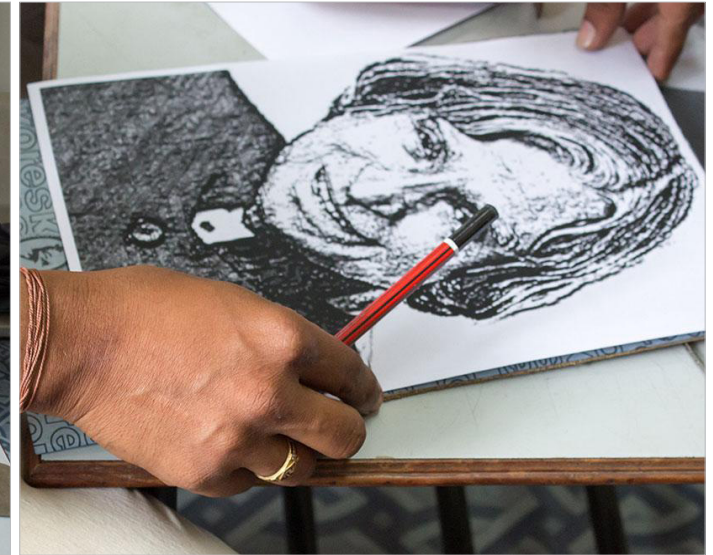
by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/making-process>

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



To get started, Black and White Pencil sketch of a celebrity is made in an A4 size sheet and a plywood sheet with the same size is also taken.



Black carbon paper is kept under the A4 size pencil sketch paper to get the impression of whatever drawn on the A4 size paper.



All those two layers are kept on the plywood sheet and paper clips are used to hold those two sheets along with the plywood sheet.



Using a Pencil outline is drawn on the image of the celebrity.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/making-process>

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



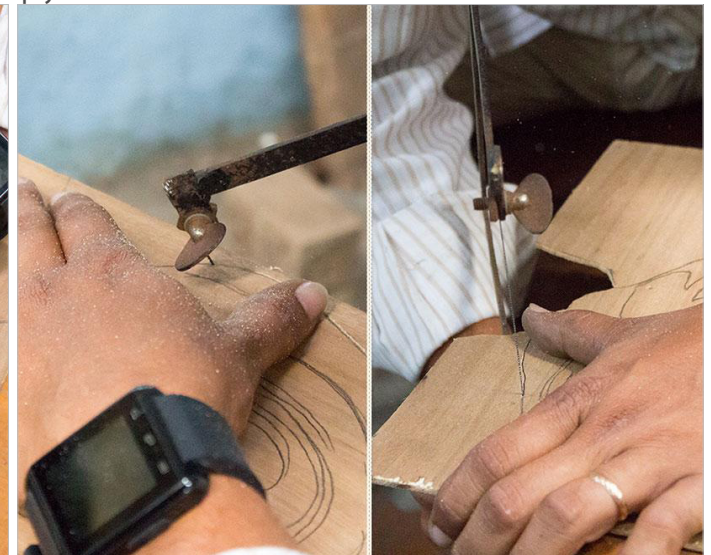
Overlay Detailing is given on each part according to the Artist.



If you lift the carbon paper along with the pencil sketch sheet, you can find the impression of the celebrity on plywood sheet.



Using a coping saw, apart from the sketch impression excess of plywood sheet is removed.



With the help of springy iron frame in the coping saw, curve shaped cuts are made.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/making-process>

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



Except the impressed image portion other parts are cut down.



An eye hole for the celebrity impression is made using Dremel tool.



With the help of coping saw excessive face portion is cut down.



To cut down below the Eye Bag of the celebrity, plywood sheet is turned upside down and using the coping saw it is cut.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/making-process>

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



Appropriate shapes are retained even after cut is made.



Using Dremel tool highlighted hair in the head portion of the plywood sheet is drilled.



Jaw, cheek and Nose part of the sketch impression is retained by using a Dremel tool through shaping it along with the drawing.



Half carved Plywood sheet of a celebrity impression.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/making-process>

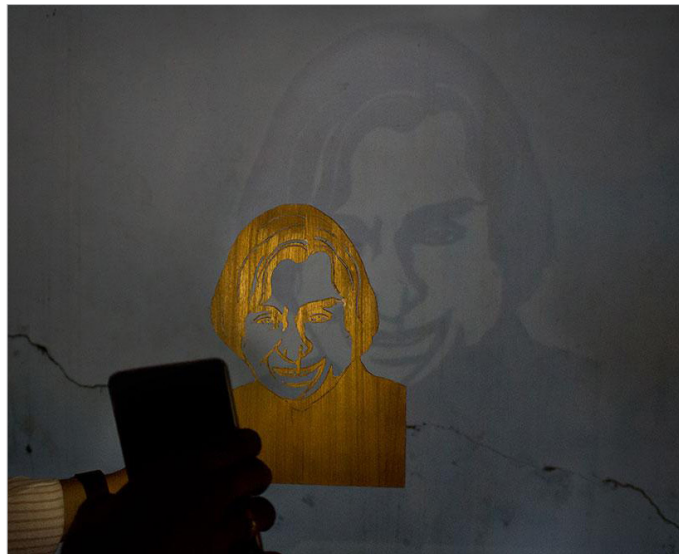
1. Introduction
2. Tools and Raw Materials
3. **Making Process**
4. Products
5. Contact Details



After carving fully, using a piece of cloth varnish is applied on it.



Artisan Finalizing the loops made in the plywood sheet for making Shadow Art.



Artisan making sure that using low light anything is to be altered or everything is carved properly.



Shadow Art of Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam is showcased.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/products>

Products

The carving for shadow art is done on celebrities like film actors, sport persons, politicians, etc...

Artisan has made images of APJ Abdul Kalam, Rajnikanth, Sachin Tendulkar, MK Stalin, Devasenapathy Sthapathy and Jackie Chan.

Fans and followers would be delighted to have these shadow art carvings of their favorite celebrity as their home décor. Their work never gets old fashioned or common, as they always think for some new innovation in their work just for you.

Process of shadow art takes about 30 minutes-7days to be completed. The time process is contingent on the medium the art is made. Carving on plywood sheet takes about 30-40 minutes to finish the process. Carving on wood takes about 2 days, whereas on metal, the pace is 7 days.

Price range is from INR5000-15000 depending on the medium on which shadow art is done.

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

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/products>



Furnace is being arrange for collecting molds and wax.



Molten wax is flowing out of the molds during heating.

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



Artisan is removing the mold from the furnace.



After removing from the furnace, another layer of clay is being applied.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/products>

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



Furnace is being arrange for collecting molds and wax.

Design Resource

Shadow Art - Swamimalai, TamilNadu

The carving for shadow art

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/shadow-art-swamimalai-tamilnadu/contact-details>

Contact Details

This documentation was done by Professor Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D at **NID, Bengaluru**.

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

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

Key Contacts:

Shri.Sadhashivan, Senior Craftsman
Swamimalai
Tamilnadu
Cellphone: 9994018765

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. **Contact Details**