



investigation into RANGOLI patterns

Investigation into Rangoli Patterns

Visual Communication, Special Project by

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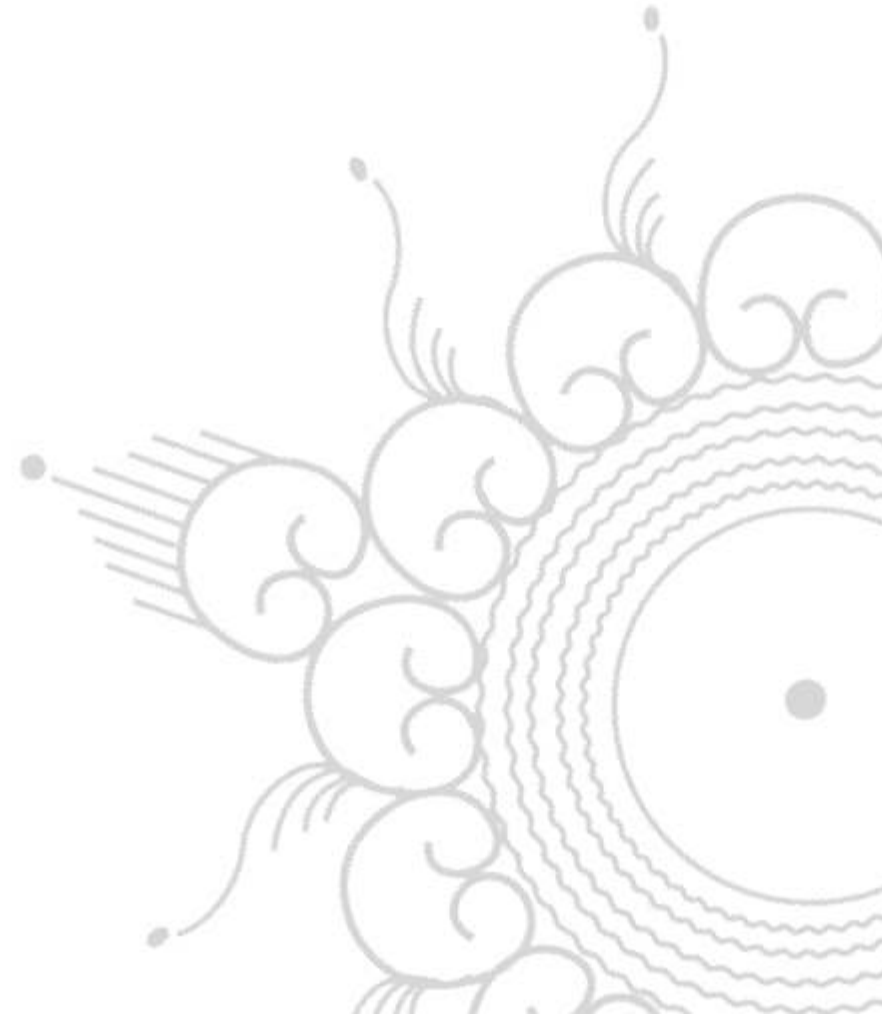
Submitted in the partial fulfillment of
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in Visual Communication

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Approval sheet

This special project in visual communication ,entitled 'investigation into rangoli' patterns by Sachin Jadhav is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirement of the M.Des. degree in Visual Communication.

Guide

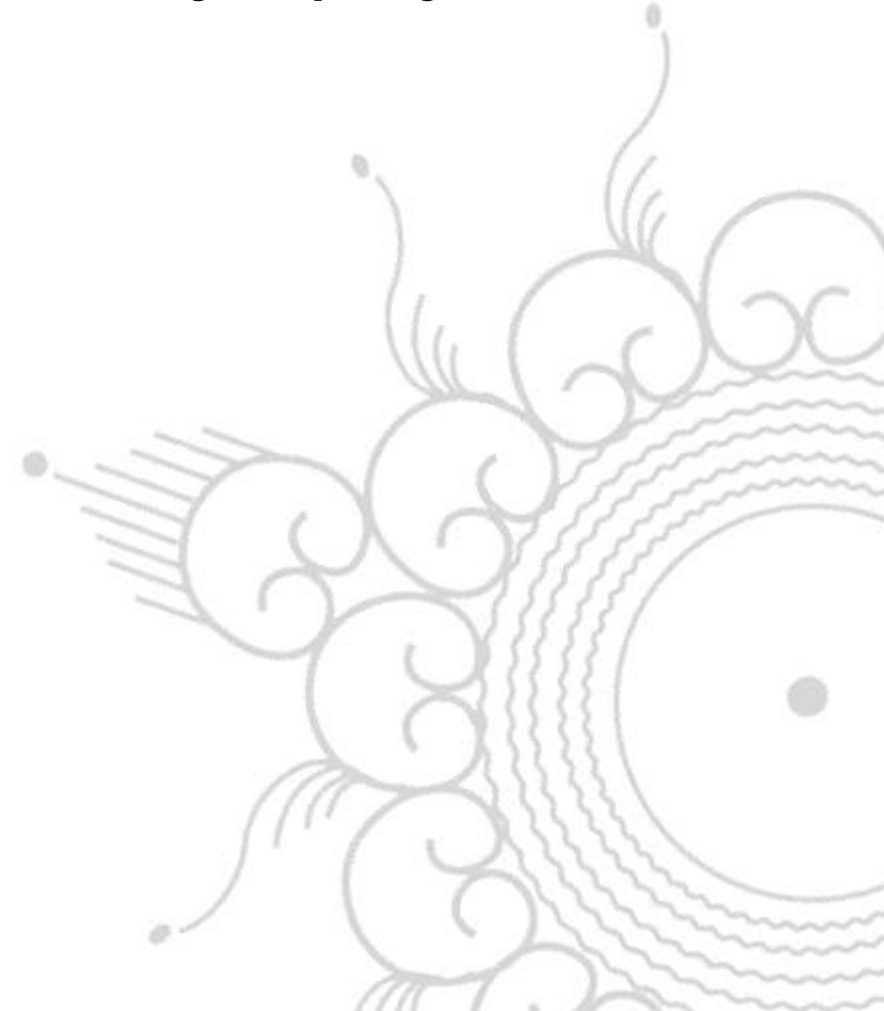


Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my guide Prof. Ravi Poovaiah, for his invaluable support and inputs through the course of the project.

I am also thankful to Mr. Sanjay Bhosale of *Brahmin Seva Mandal*, Dadar for taking time out to discuss my project with me and helping out to discover the new form of rangoli.

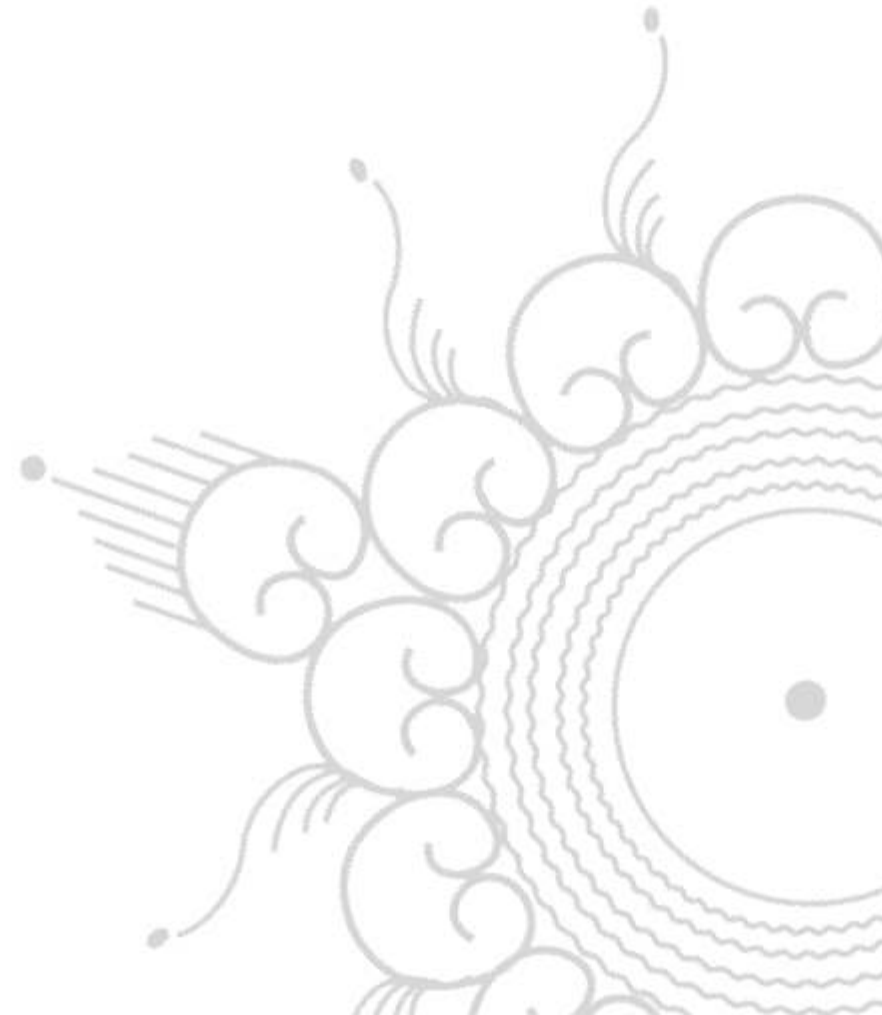
Also all my friends who have been of great help throughout.





Abstract

The scope of this project is to identify, locate, document, and analyze the Rangoli pattern used on different occasions and functions. The analysis result in identifying key structural/recurring visual elements, motifs. These are visually modified and represented as basic graphical



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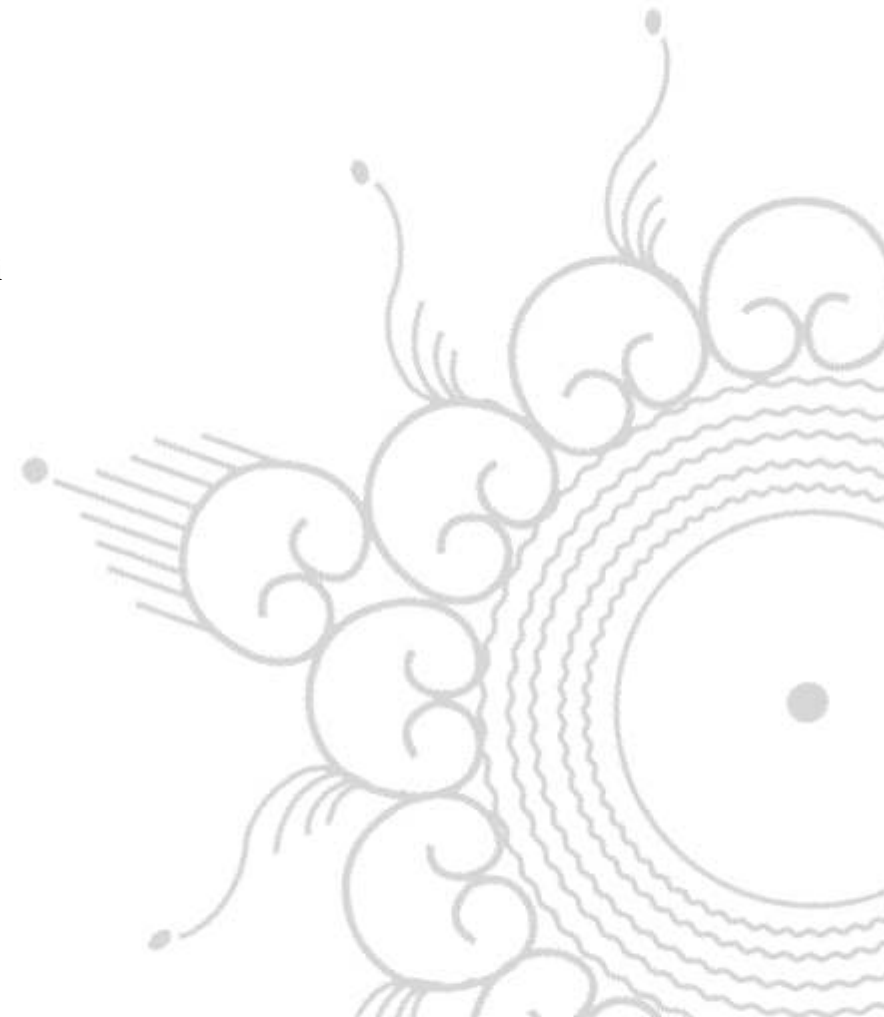
Traditional Rangoli

Sanskar Bharati Rangoli

Motifs and Symbols

Decorative Patterns

Application



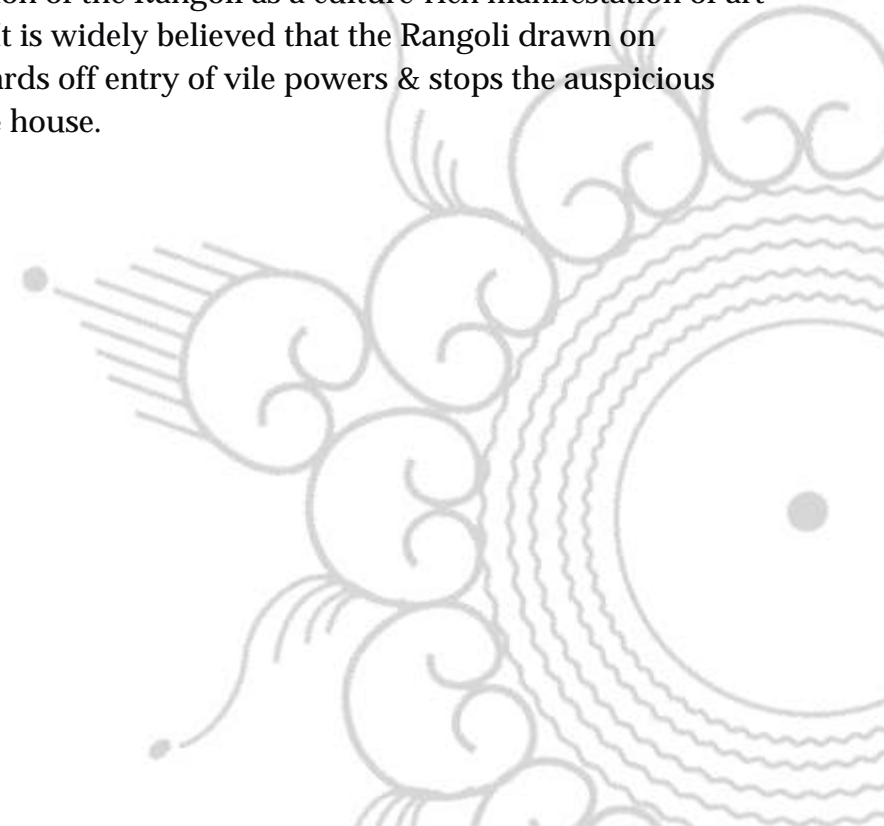


Introduction

“Splashing of an array of colors, internalized the colors of bands, creation of beautiful formations toward of all that is holy and pure- that is Rangoli.”

Revelation of beauty,
attainment of auspiciousness

These are the twin motives of Rangoli. The place where it is drawn automatically reverberates with a climate surcharged with auspiciousness & goodness. Hence the importance of Rangoli in festivals & the like Rangoli drawn in a courtyard of the house reflects the beauty, love & affection innate in any dwelling house. The 'Rangoli' becomes the epitome of group culturedness & therefore the description of the Rangoli as a culture-rich manifestation of art becomes truly befitting. It is widely believed that the Rangoli drawn on threshold, courtyard, wards off entry of vile powers & stops the auspicious powers from leaving the house.





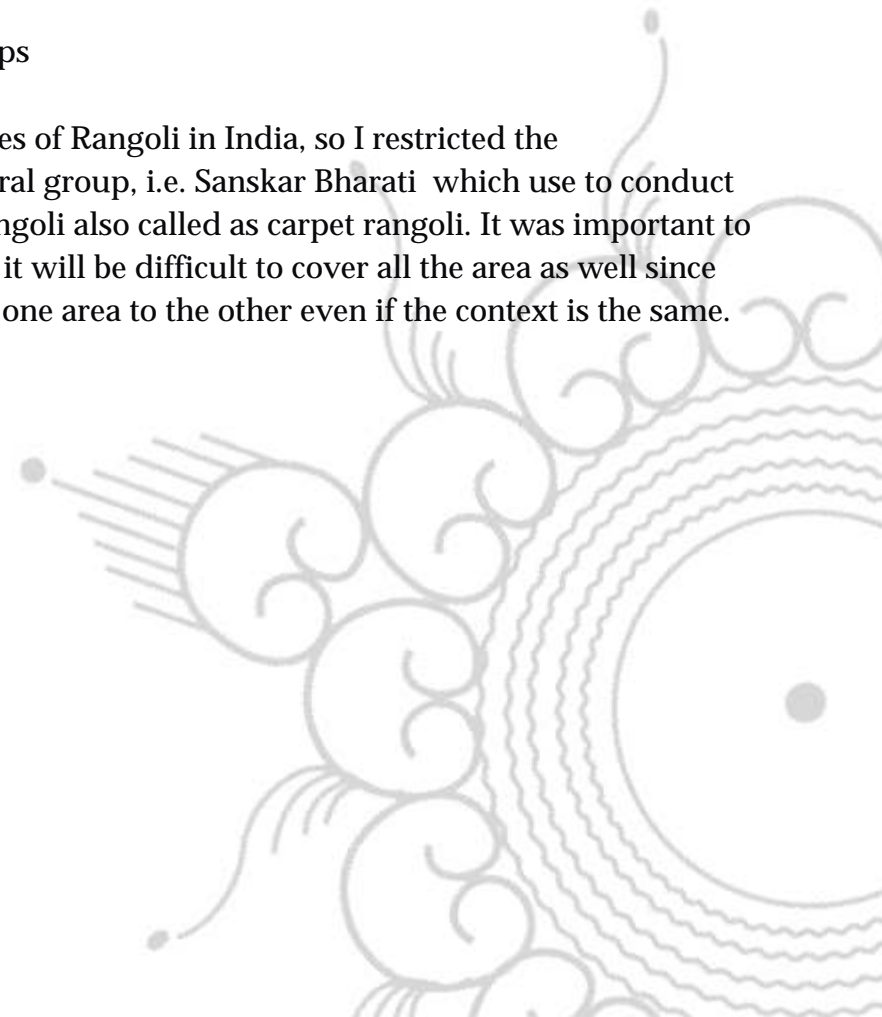
Defining the boundaries of the project

Rangoli is one of the art form in India which has same soul with different faces and covering all in the given time span is an impossible task to complete.

In this case it is essential to restrict the domain of the project using the following criteria:

- Region/places
- Occasions/events
- Environments
- Cultural/religious groups

As there are various types of Rangoli in India, so I restricted the documentation to Cultural group, i.e. Sanskar Bharati which use to conduct the different type of Rangoli also called as carpet rangoli. It was important to limit the region because it will be difficult to cover all the area as well since patterns can differ from one area to the other even if the context is the same.





Classification of occasions/events in India

Patriotic

Independence Day
Gandhi jayanti
Ambedkar jayanti
Shivaji jayanti
etc.

Political

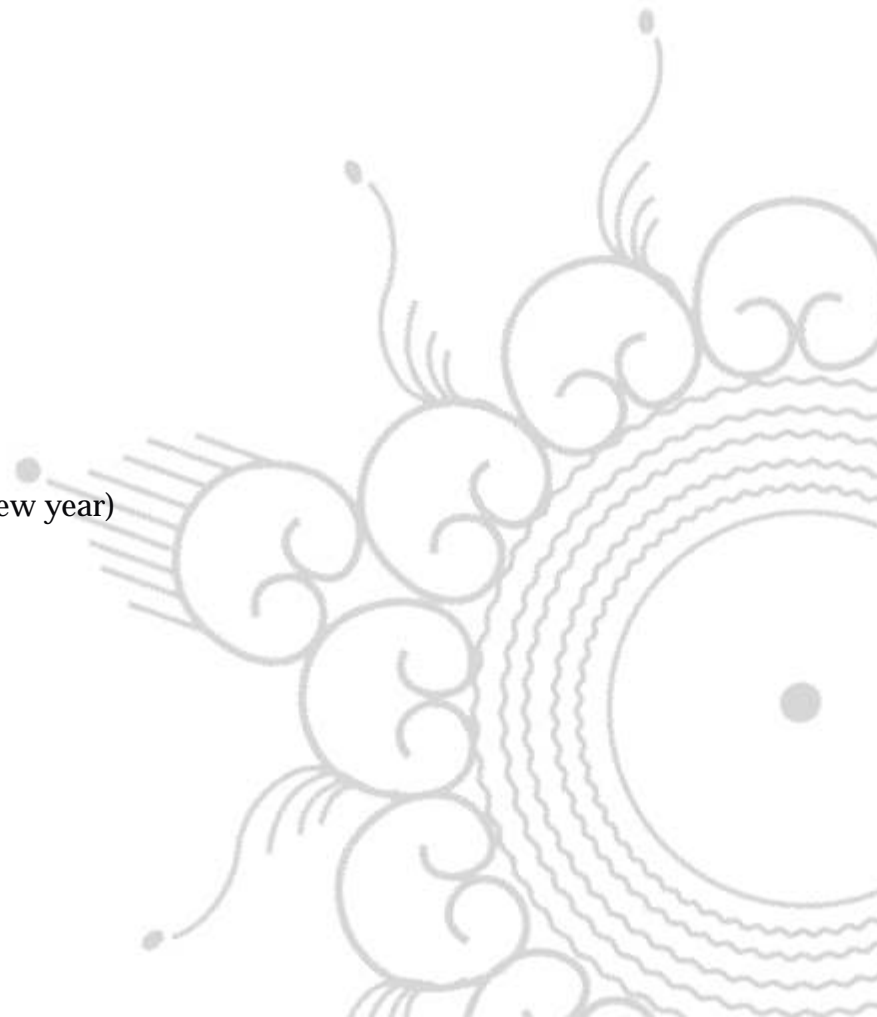
elections
political gatherings

Festivals

Holi
Raksha bandhan
Diwali
Ganesh chaturthi
Mahashivratri
Gudhi padwa(marathi new year)
Ram-navami
Janmashtami
etc.

Personal celebration

Birthday
Anniversaries
Grih praves





Historical References

Rangoli has been predominantly an individual art form .yet for generations it has been nurtured in social life as well. It has earned a distinction of popular folk art . It is widely recognized as an art oriented ideal of Hindu society. Definite information has not been available as to its origin and its development.

However it is concerned in Mahabharata, a massive work attributed to the sage Vedavyasa. In this epic "the bundle of wonderful (mayavic or illusionary) things" called as Mayasabha, the gift of Mayasur to the Pandavas , mentioned the illusionary work on the water which is same as the rangoli done on the water.

In case of Maharashtra, *Mahanubhav* literature *Leela charitra* mentions this form of art. Thus Rangoli is an ancient art.





Pongal

Use of Rangoli

Rangoli is not for religious occasions alone. It is used as a complete ornamental presentation in different functions & programs.

In the courtyard

at the entrance of the house or a temple,

Near vrindavan,

during religious,

cultural programs,

during auspicious ceremonies in front of the house,

at the threshold of a house,

just in front of the place where Gods are worshiped,

around dining plates,

sitting planks,

during worship,

Yajna (sacred fire) ,

auspicious bath,

naming ceremony,

thread ceremony,

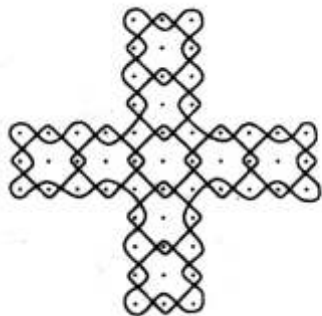
Marriage,

dinners & a host of similar occasions,

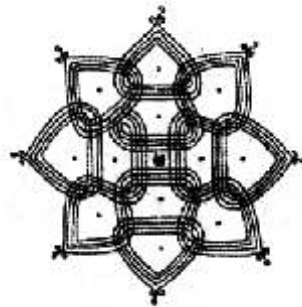
Rangoli drawing is a natural happening.



Kolam



Rangoli



Muggu

Provincial Rangoli's

India which is bedecked with diversity has obviously various Rangoli forms &

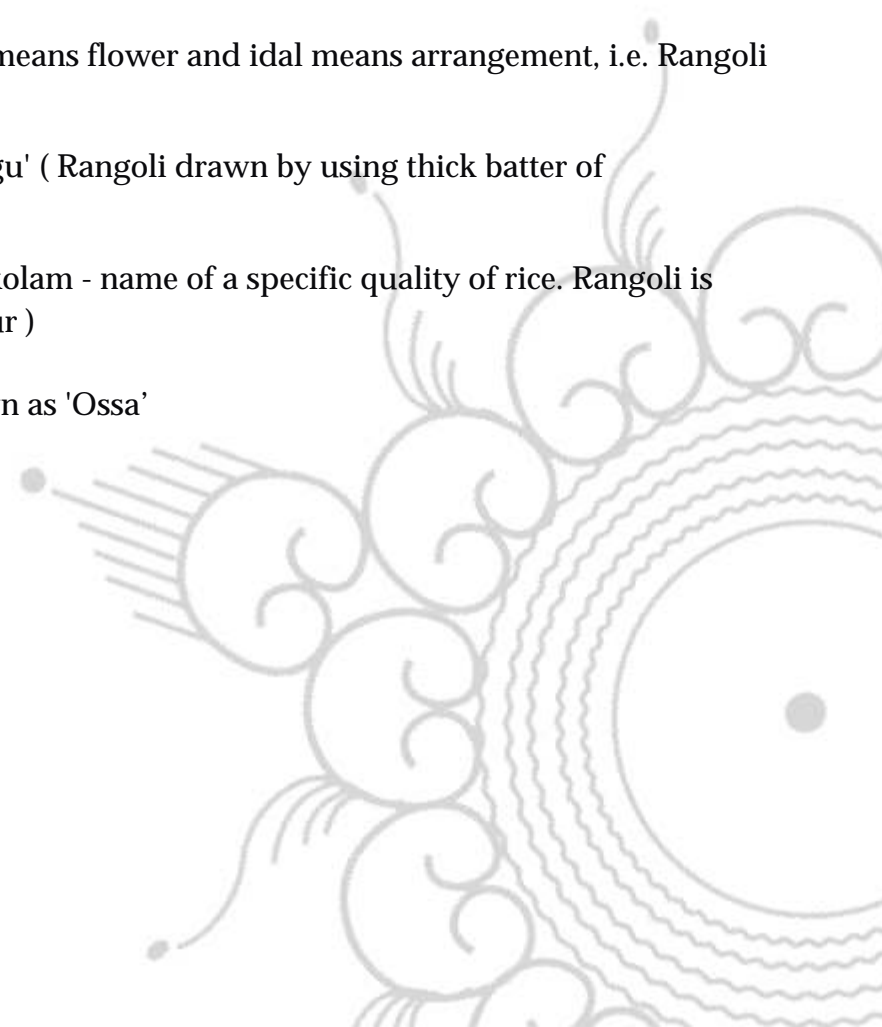
Karnataka : 'Rangoli' (From the powder of a special kind of a rock. Tiny dots are drawn on the floor usually in even numbers. These dots are joined with the

Kerala : 'Puvidal' (Puv means flower and idal means arrangement, i.e. Rangoli

Andhra Pradesh : 'Muggu' (Rangoli drawn by using thick batter of

Tamil Nadu : 'Kolam' (kolam - name of a specific quality of rice. Rangoli is drawn by using rice flour)

Orissa : Rangoli is known as 'Ossa'





Provincial Rangoli's

Rajasthan : 'Mandana' (rice flour mixed with little turmeric. Rangoli is drawn on the walls).

Madhya Pradesh : 'ChowkPurna', Traditional designs fitted in square with leaves and flowers .

Uttar Pradesh : Rangoli is known as 'Sona Rakhana'.

Bengal : In Bengal it is drawn by soak rice paste and known as 'Alpana'.

Gujarat : 'Sathiya' (Rangoli is known by this name).

Maharashtra : 'Rangvalli', Rangoli thick powder made from special rock is used in various colors, and the powder of burnt rice skin is used to draw

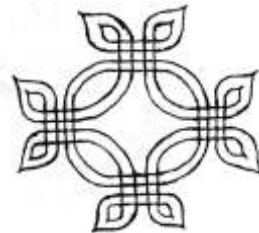


Sathiya

Puvidal



'Alpana

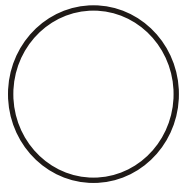


Bodan



ChowkPurna

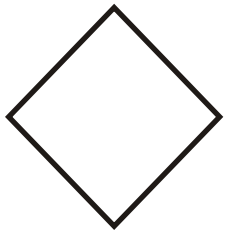




A Round



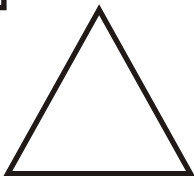
Half Round



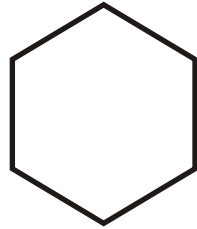
Quadrangle



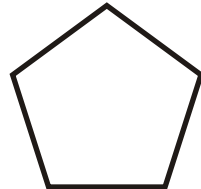
Rectangle



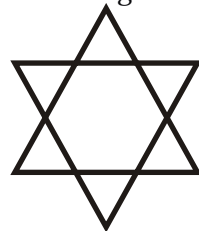
Triangle



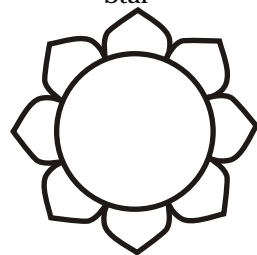
Sexagon



Pentagon



Star



Celestial
Lotus

Forms used in Rangoli

The designs are symbolic and common to the entire country, and can include Geometrical patterns such as,

A Round,

Half Round,

Triangle,

Rectangle,

Pentagon,

Sexagon,

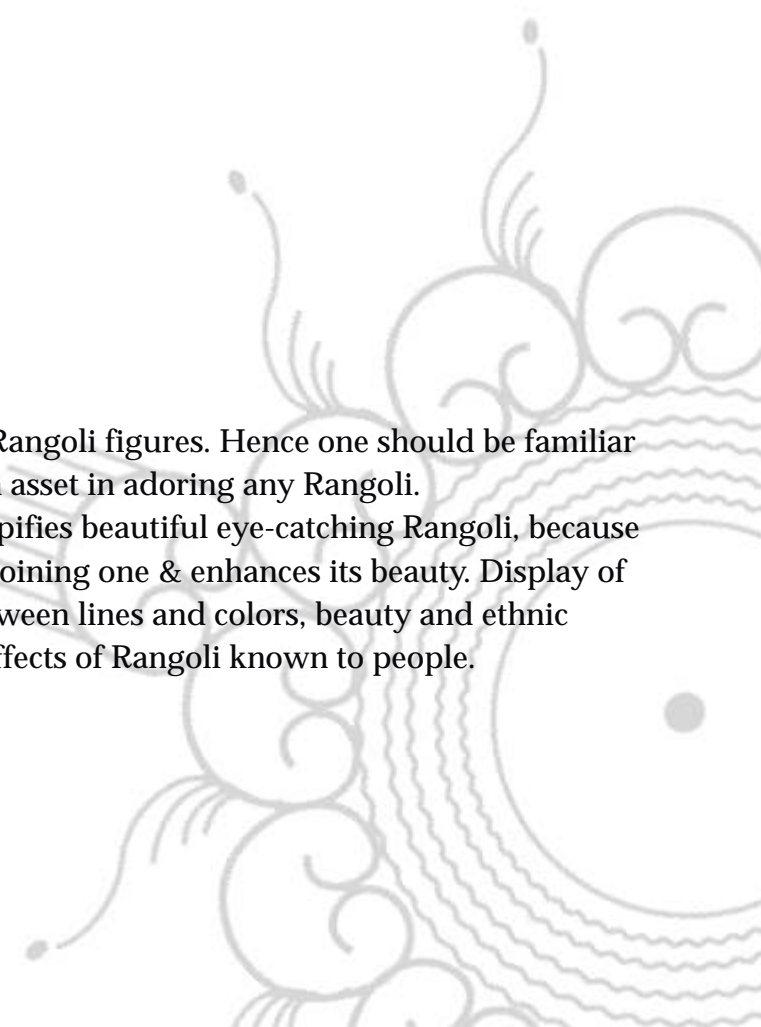
Quadrangle,

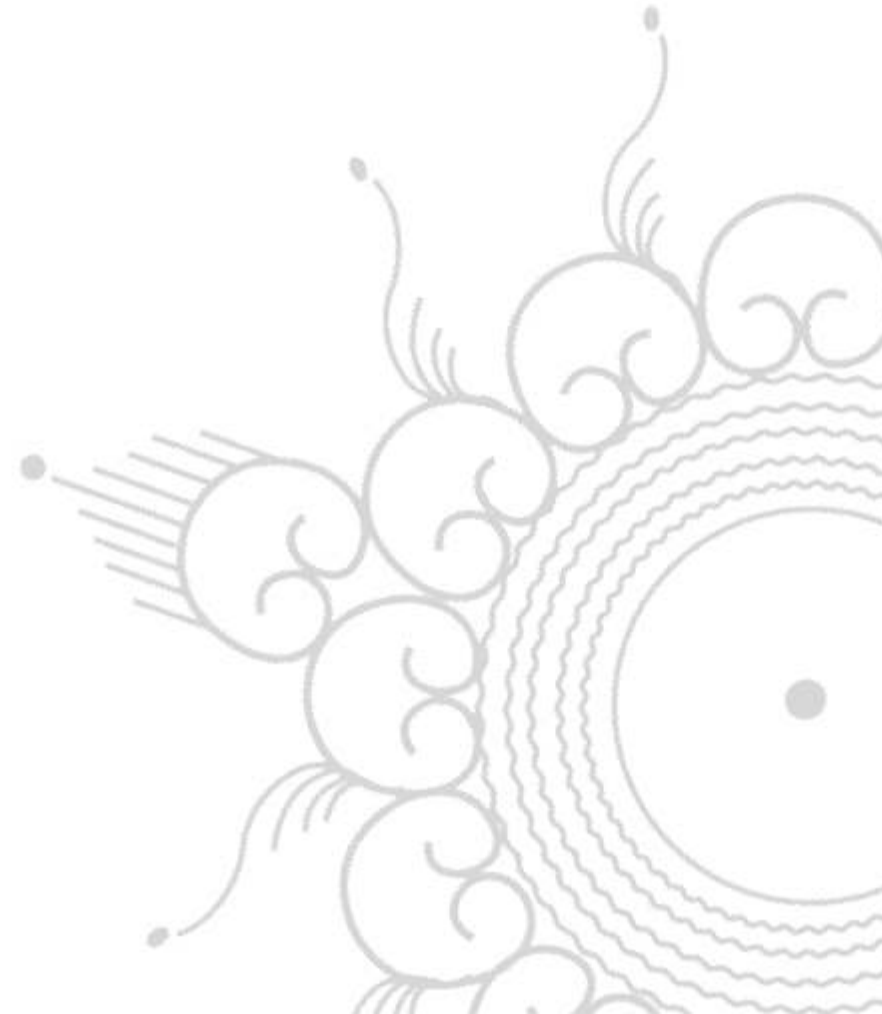
Star,

Celestial Lotus

these forms adorn the beautiful Rangoli figures. Hence one should be familiar with various forms, which are an asset in adorning any Rangoli.

The constructional unification typifies beautiful eye-catching Rangoli, because every motif is woven into the adjoining one & enhances its beauty. Display of beautiful colors, strong bond between lines and colors, beauty and ethnic atmosphere are the fascinating effects of Rangoli known to people.





A collection of 20 black and white line drawings of various Indian religious symbols and motifs. The symbols include: a butterfly with circular wings; a flame-like symbol with a central dot; a leafy branch; a horizontal bar with a downward-pointing flame; a swan facing left; a peacock tail; a vertical staff with a flame; a stylized flame; a crescent moon with a face; a small bell; a large lotus flower; a heart-shaped symbol; a six-pointed star with a central dot; a fish; a stylized flower; a horizontal bar with a downward-pointing flame; a lotus flower; and a peacock tail.

These motifs often are modified to fit in with the local images and rhythms.

Peacock

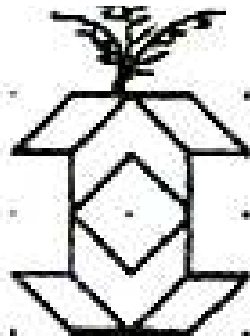
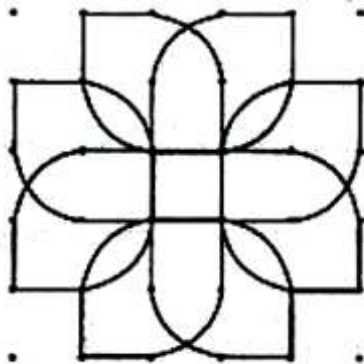
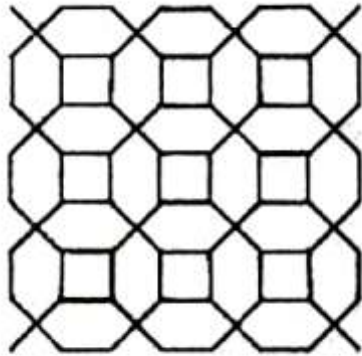
Mango

Creepers

Lotus

Fish

Conch shell



Orientation in Rangoli

The orientation can be based on

Dot,

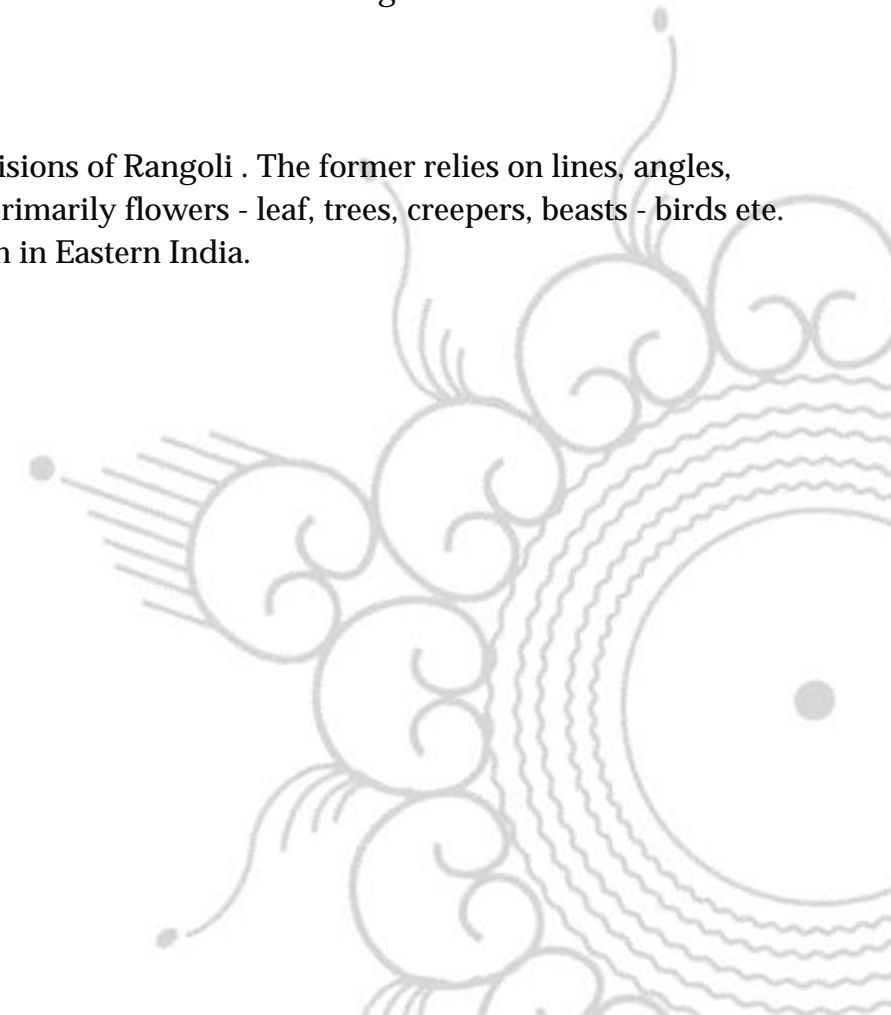
Picture

Nature

There are two more divisions of orientation of Rangoli such as
form oriented

nature oriented

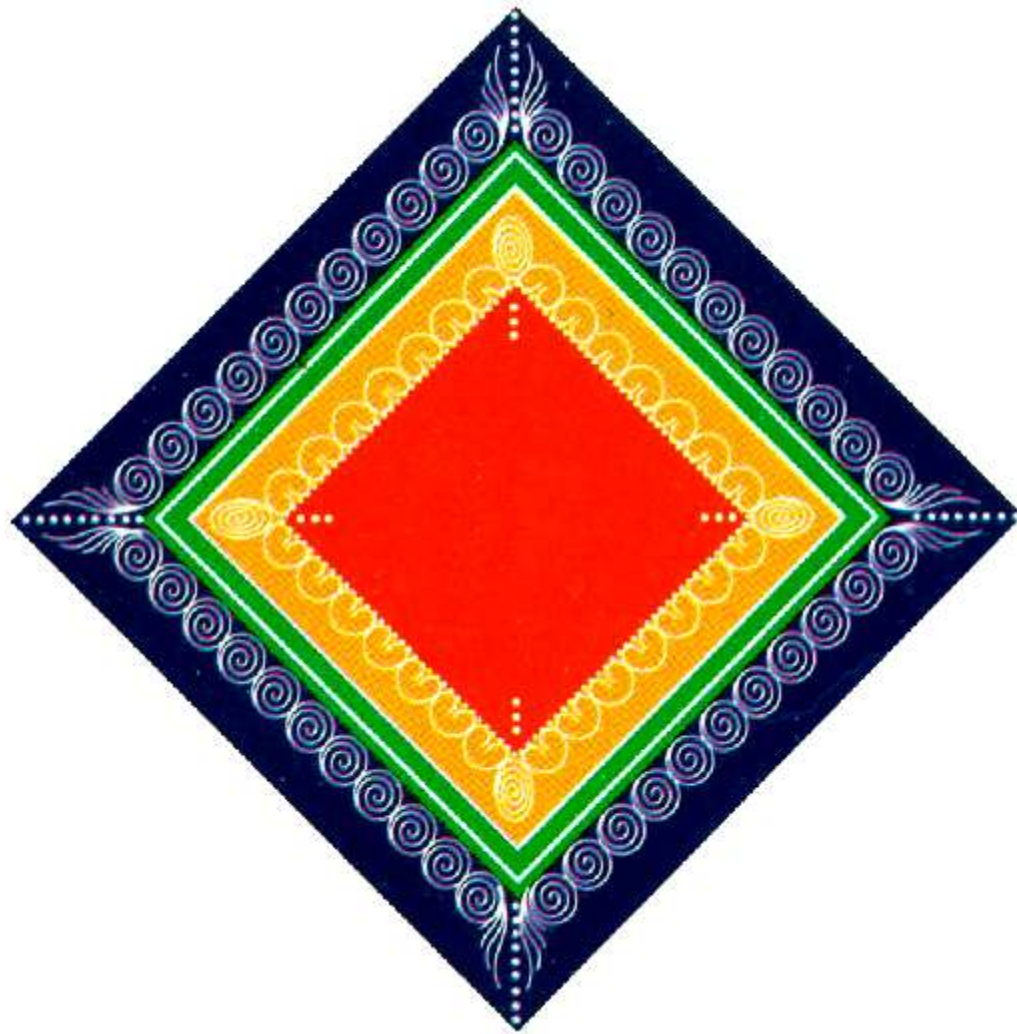
These are two more divisions of Rangoli . The former relies on lines, angles, circles, The latter uses primarily flowers - leaf, trees, creepers, beasts - birds etc. These are quite common in Eastern India.



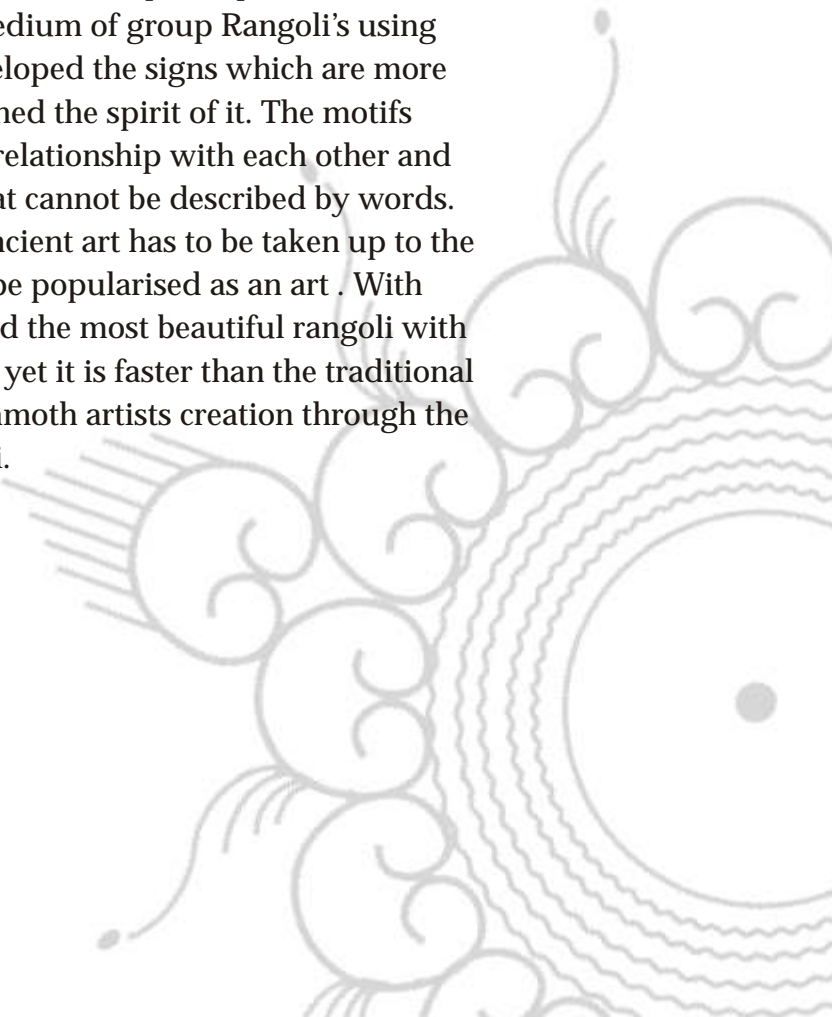


Sanskar Bharati

Carpet rangoli /five fingers rangoli



Sanskar Bharati is one of the cultural activity center which can be find all over India, started from last 25 years. preserving and protecting the Indian art form . Rangoli is one of the sixty four main art from Vedas. Sanskar Bharati has placed this art form on a special pedestal in the social fabric through the medium of group Rangoli's using traditional signs. They developed the signs which are more easy to draw but yet contained the spirit of it. The motifs used in art forms establish relationship with each other and convey much more than that cannot be described by words. So the importance of this ancient art has to be taken up to the masses. The rangoli has to be popularised as an art . With this end in view they created the most beautiful rangoli with less motifs and symbol and yet it is faster than the traditional Rangoli and a unique, mammoth artists creation through the medium of a group Rangoli.

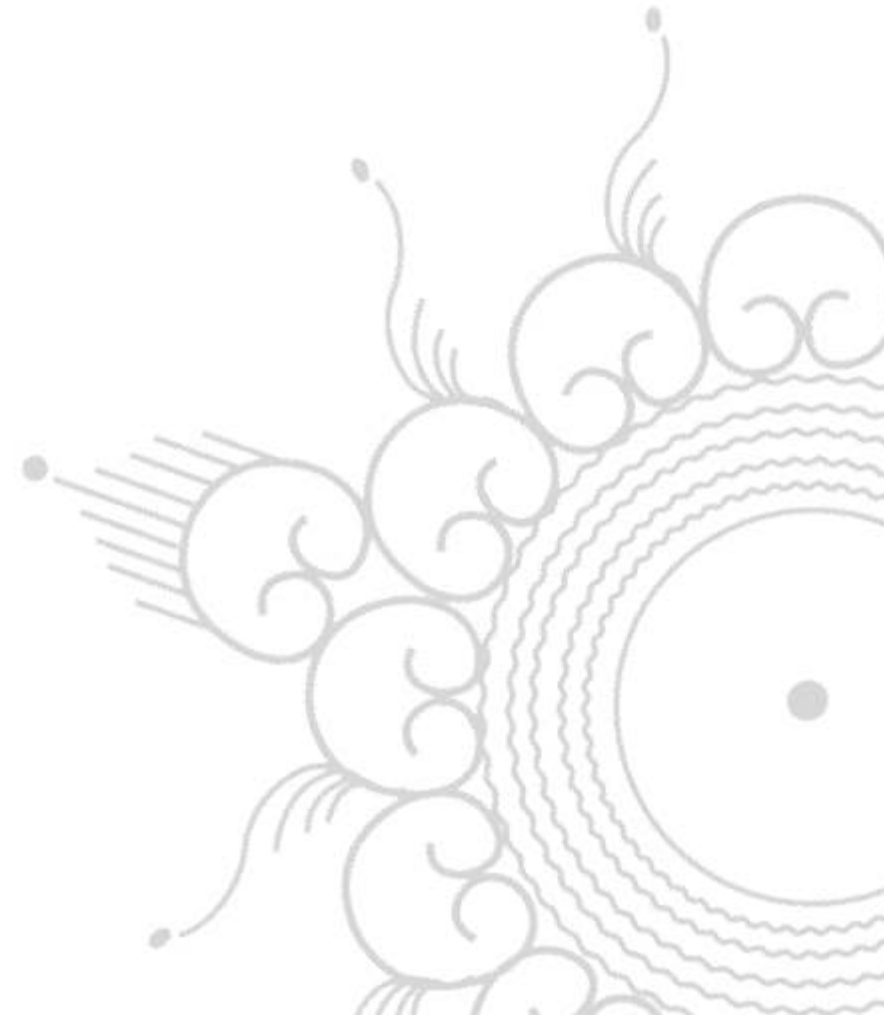




Forms and motifs

The forms used in this rangoli are same as used in any other type of rangoli
Such as

A Round,
Half Round,
Triangle,
Rectangle,
Pentagon,
Sexagon,
Quadrangle,
Carpet,
Star,

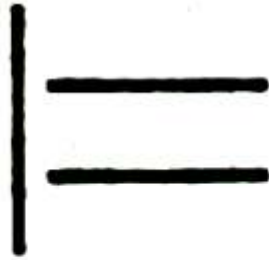




Forms and motifs

A dot

is representation of seed. The secret of recreation is contained in the seed. It exemplifies motherhood. A giant rangoli begins from a dot. The kumkum-tilak on the forehead.



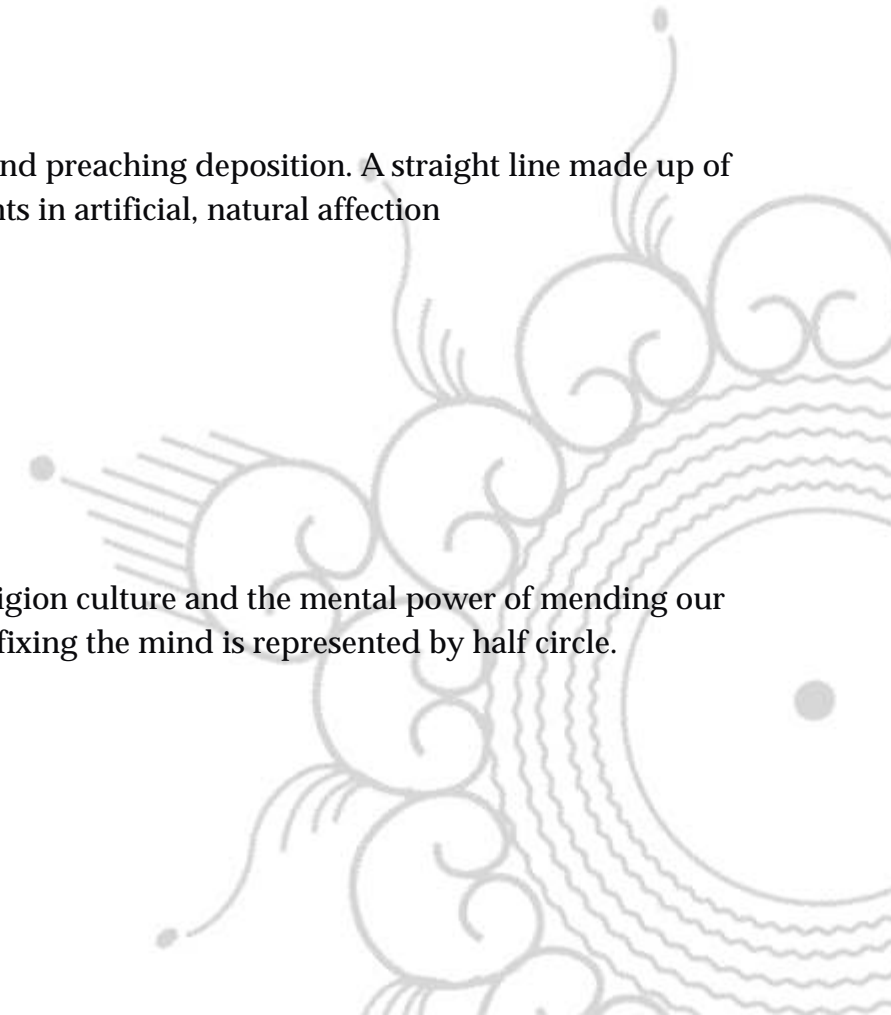
Straight line

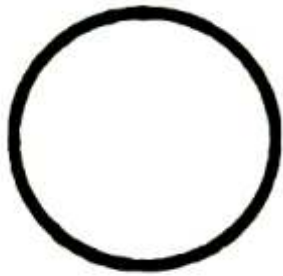
Represents inquisitive and preaching deposition. A straight line made up of numerous dots represents in artificial, natural affection



Half circle

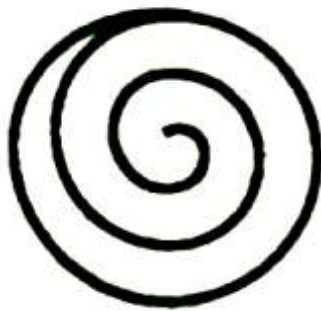
Knowledge, science, religion culture and the mental power of mending our mind and the power of fixing the mind is represented by half circle.





Circle

the circle represent fullness. The life which is enlightened and pacifying and the fulfillment of the life's objective in full form is a circle.



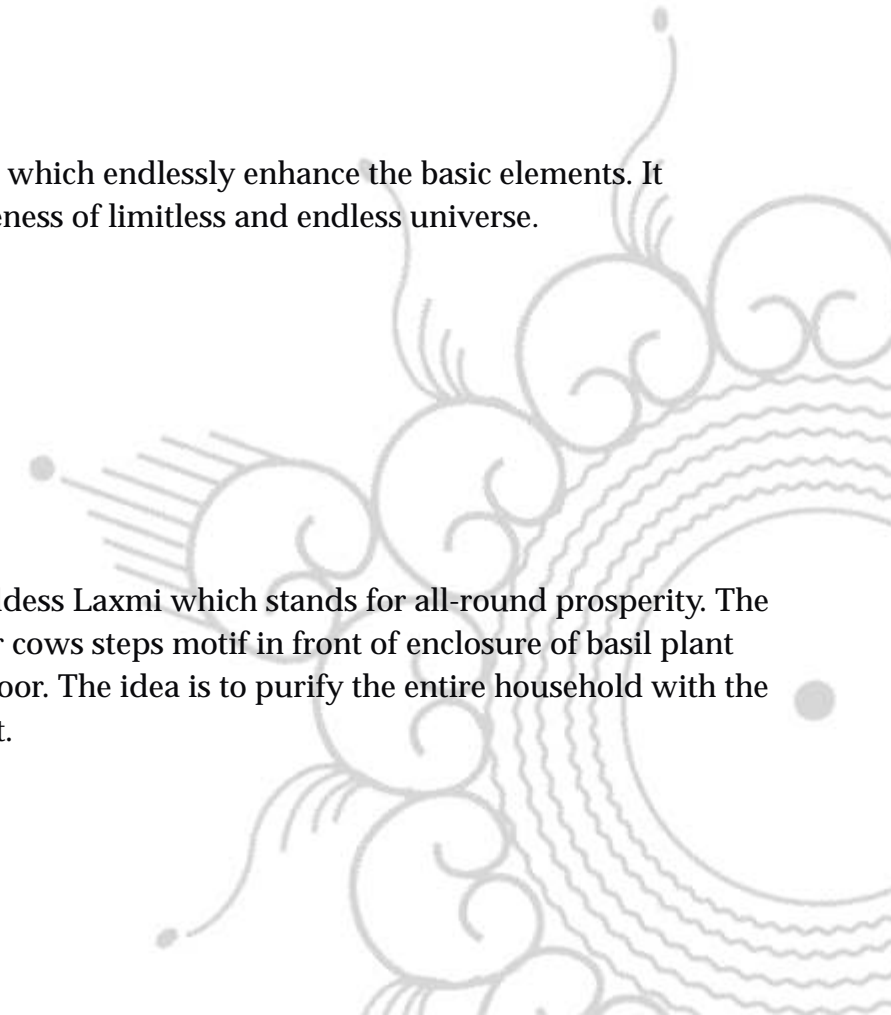
Centripetal

This is a motif of feeling which endlessly enhance the basic elements. It represents vast tangibility of limitless and endless universe.



Cow's steps

This is the motifs of goddess Laxmi which stands for all-round prosperity. The tradition is to carve four cows steps motif in front of enclosure of basil plant and at the front of the door. The idea is to purify the entire household with the touch of these cow's feet.





Serpentine lines

The movement of the water, wind is in form of waves. Hence serpentine line denotes movement. Good message, physical knowledge, science, culture all are energized in serpentine lines.



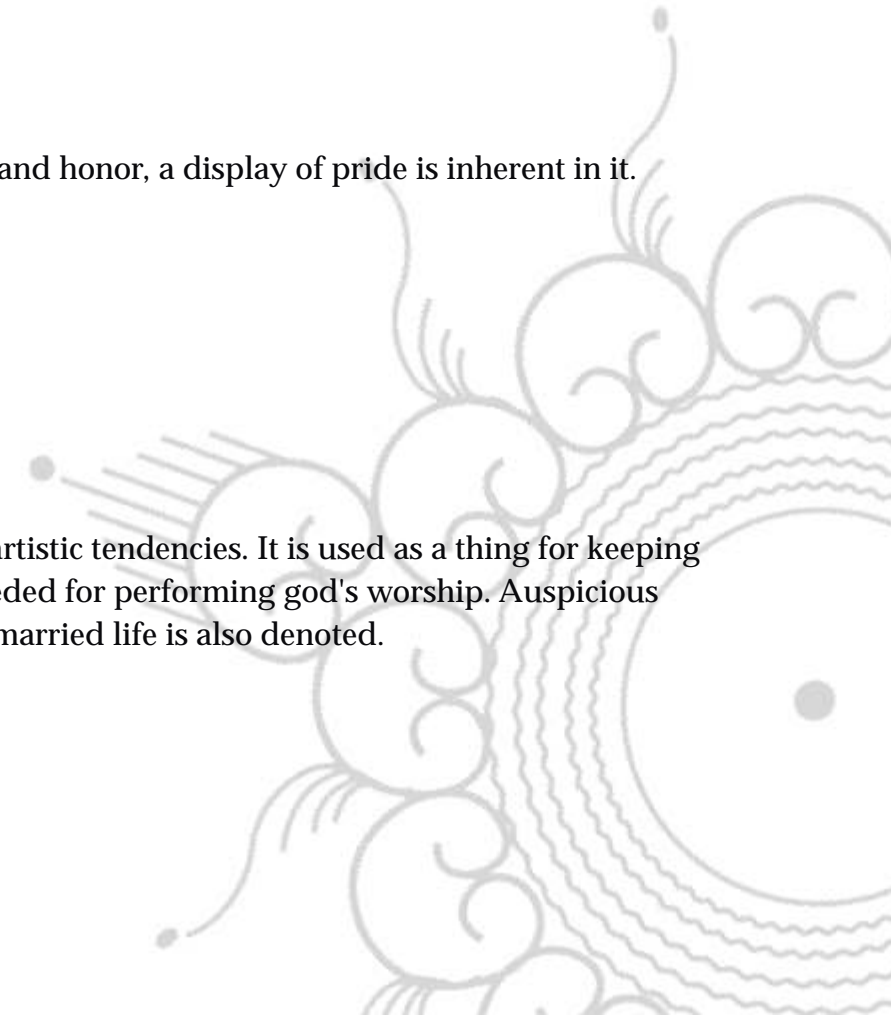
Plum

Plum represent beauty and honor, a display of pride is inherent in it.



Koyari

This is representing of artistic tendencies. It is used as a thing for keeping various equipments needed for performing god's worship. Auspicious equipment, a motif for married life is also denoted.





Conch

It is the motif of revelation of resonance of pranav sound. This is one of the one of the weapons in the hand of Vishnu. in the centre of the cone resides the moon, in the belly Varun, the god of rain, Prajapati at the back and Saraswati in front. The sound emanating on blowing of the conch is akin to Om sound. hence in the worship conch has special place. The conch personifies affluence, good fortune and inspiration. Conch is also a battle instrument and is equated



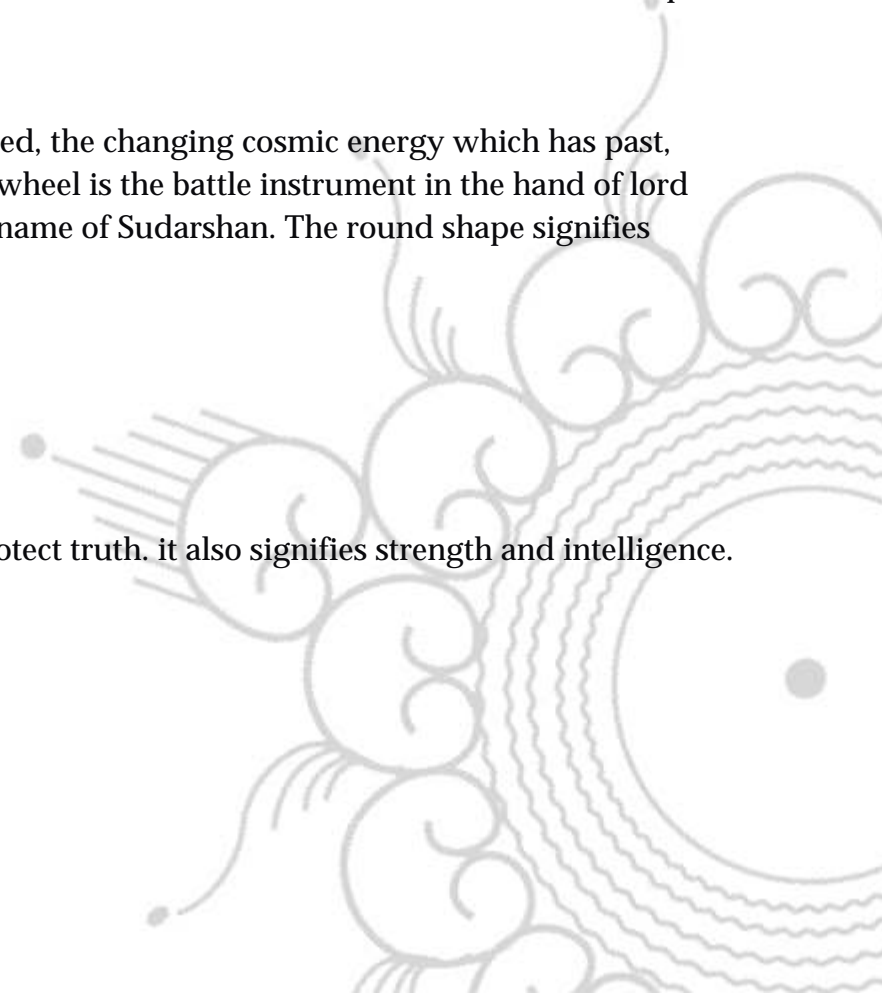
Wheel

Wheel denotes time, speed, the changing cosmic energy which has past, present and future. The wheel is the battle instrument in the hand of lord Vishnu and goes by the name of Sudarshan. The round shape signifies unending traditions.



Mace

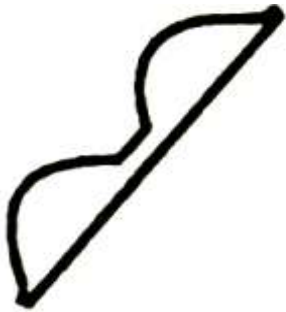
It denotes power that protect truth. it also signifies strength and intelligence.





Lotus

beauty, purity, delicacy, cleanliness, creativity are represented by lotus. lotus represent female element and is procreator of life. The epitome of this quality is fixed in Brahmadeva. Therefore he is seated on a lotus.



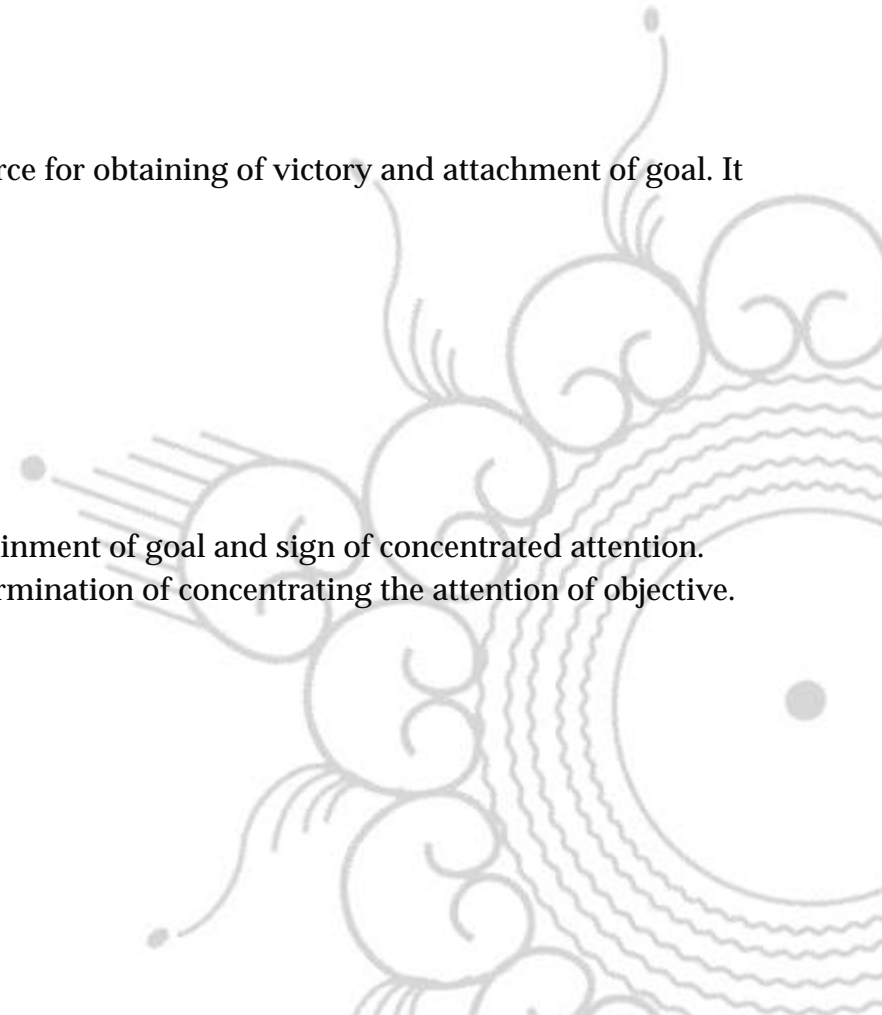
A bow

It signifies the motive force for obtaining of victory and attachment of goal. It



An arrow

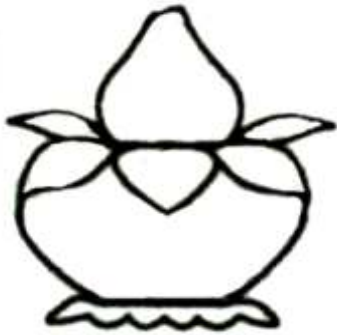
The motive force for attainment of goal and sign of concentrated attention. Arrow signifies the determination of concentrating the attention of objective.





Omkar

Is the revelation of Brahma in a letter-form. It is the revelation of primordial form of the Universe. The sages & seers got this form revealed to them through this motif.



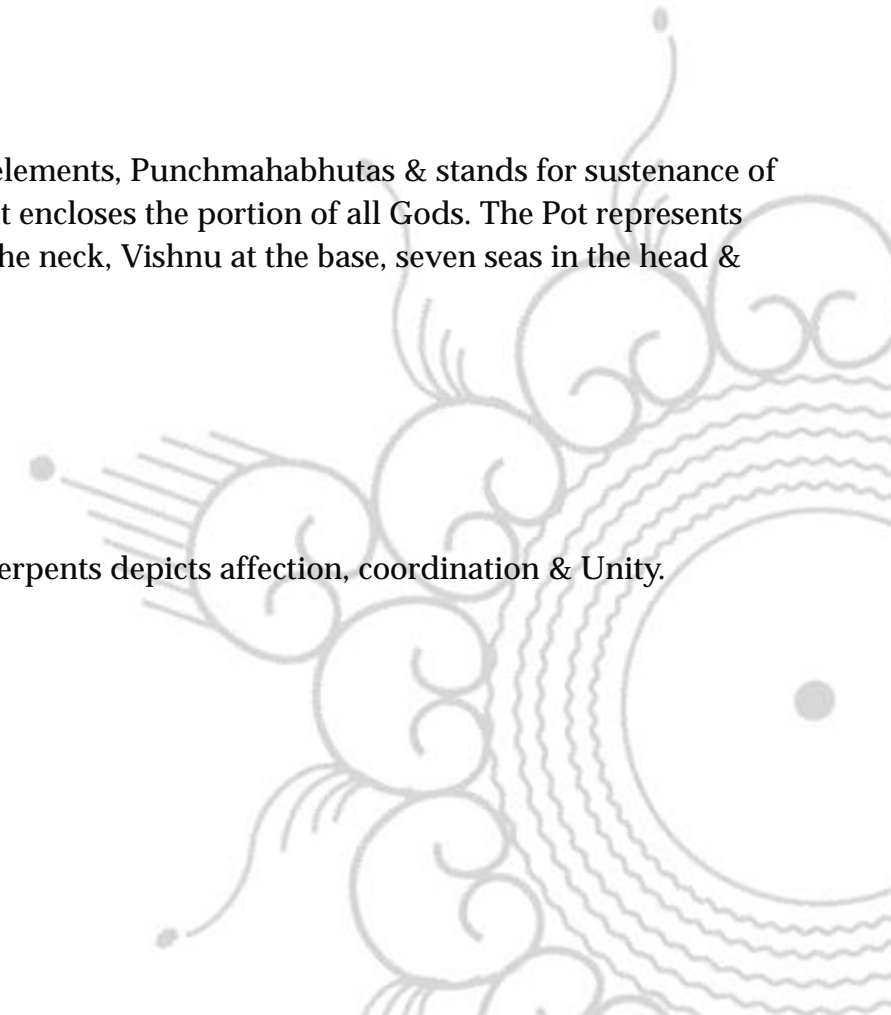
Storing Pot

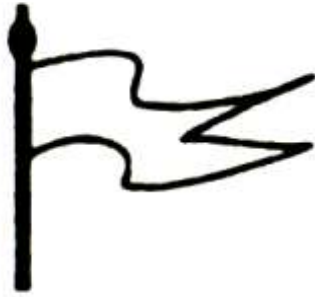
Contains the five basic elements, Punchmahabhutas & stands for sustenance of Universe & Prosperity. It encloses the portion of all Gods. The Pot represents Brahma, Shiva around the neck, Vishnu at the base, seven seas in the head & rivers led by Ganges.



Chain-Let

Consisting of a pair of serpents depicts affection, coordination & Unity.





Flag

Stands for Fire -Top, Brilliance Penance & Sacrifice.



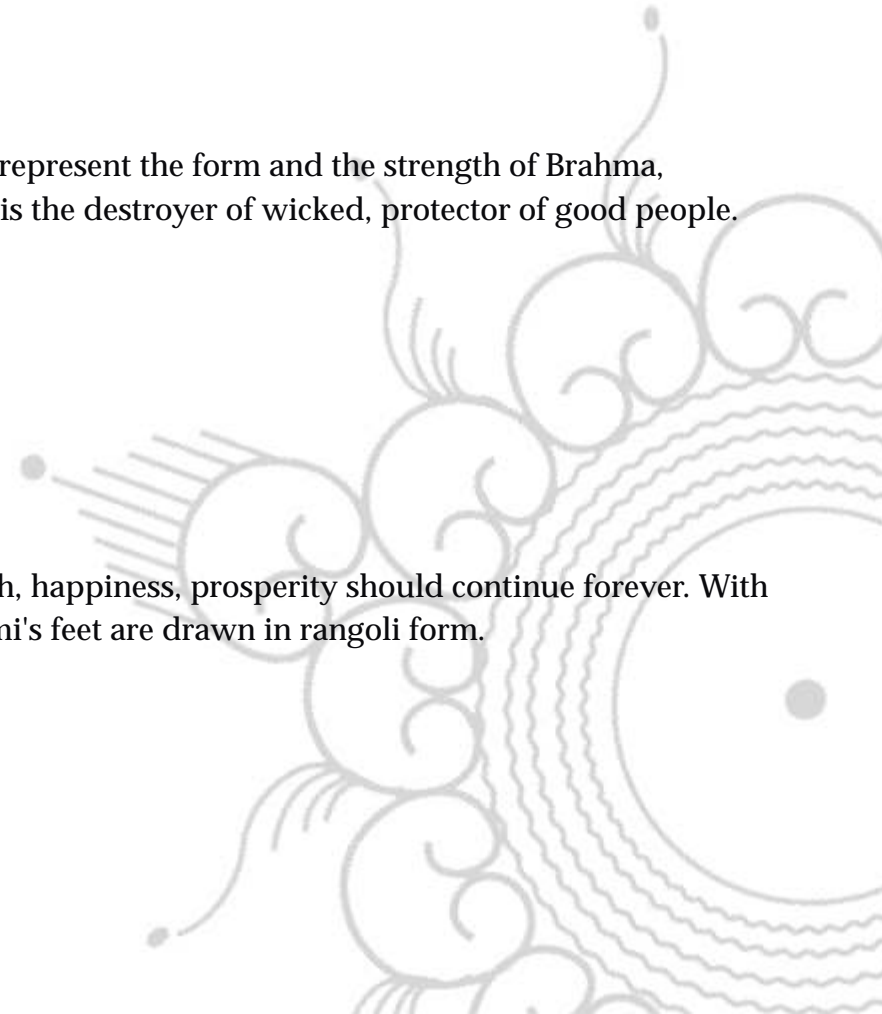
Trident

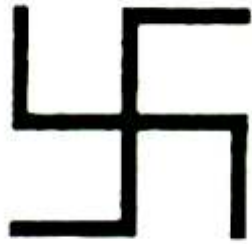
The three end of trident represent the form and the strength of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesha. It is the destroyer of wicked, protector of good people.



Laxmi

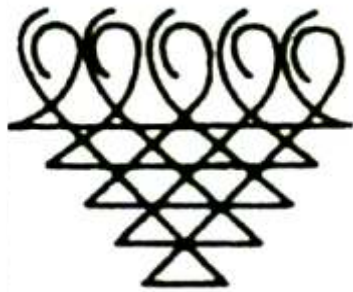
Is full of riche. The health, happiness, prosperity should continue forever. With the hope and belief Laxmi's feet are drawn in rangoli form.





Swastika

Symbolize speed which pervades the cosmos. This is a popular religious motif. The earth bestows their best wishes which are apparent in this motif. This motif is considered as a motif of combined might of human wishes and divine power.



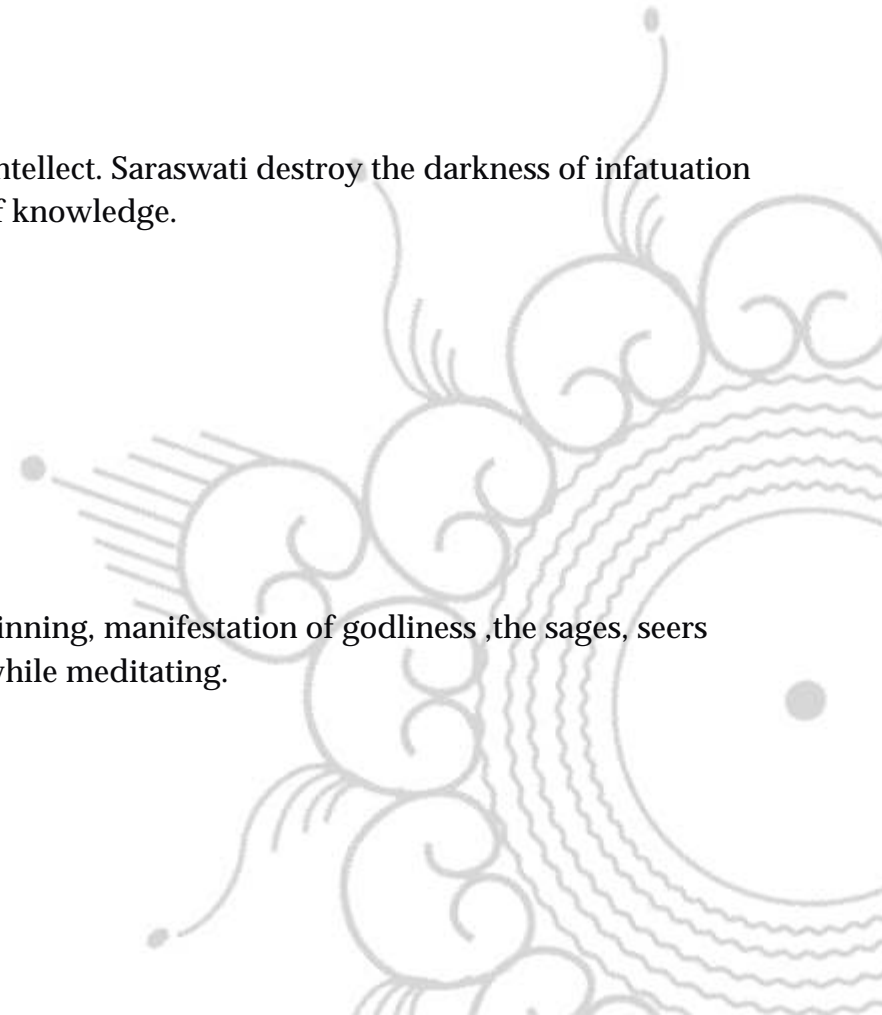
Saraswati

This motif is symbol of intellect. Saraswati destroy the darkness of infatuation and gives out the light of knowledge.



Shreekar

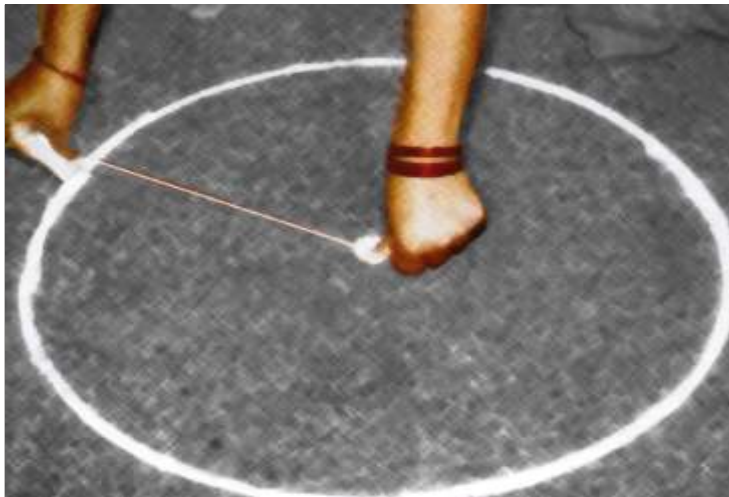
The sign auspicious beginning, manifestation of godliness ,the sages, seers realized it in this form while meditating.



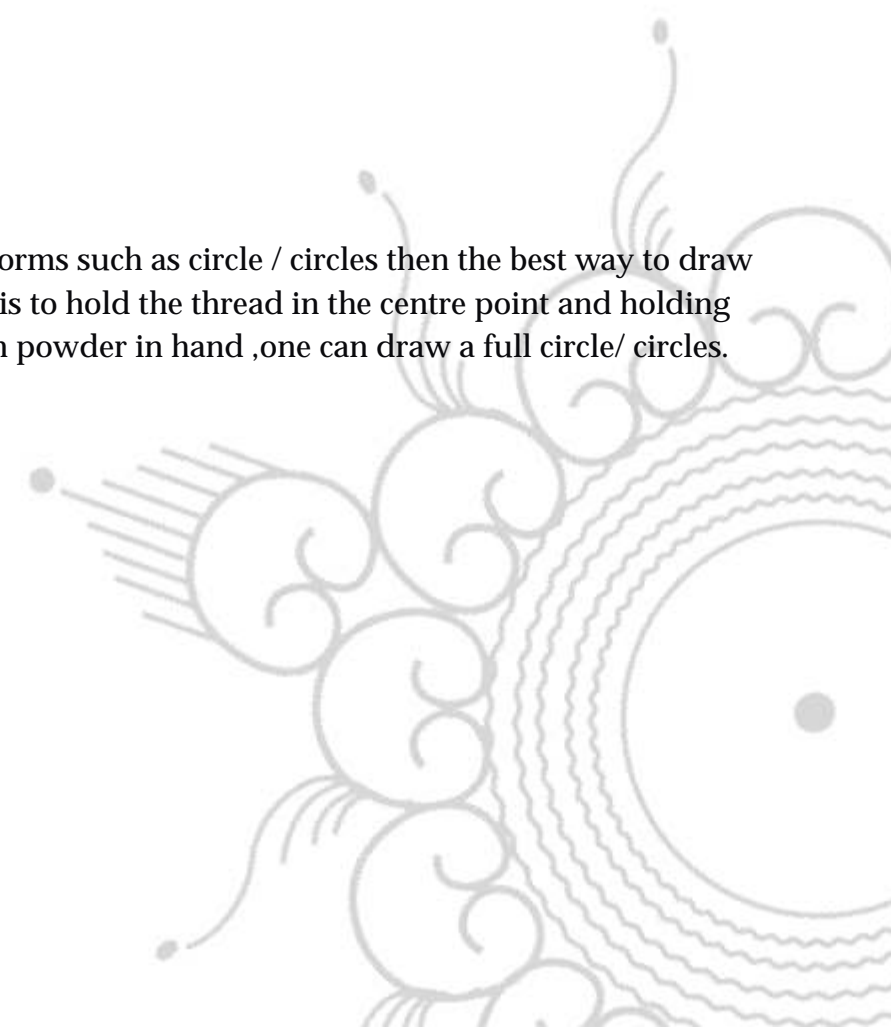


Process of drawing rangoli

The material used to draw this rangoli is limestone/ sandstone powder, colors, plate, brush and concentration.

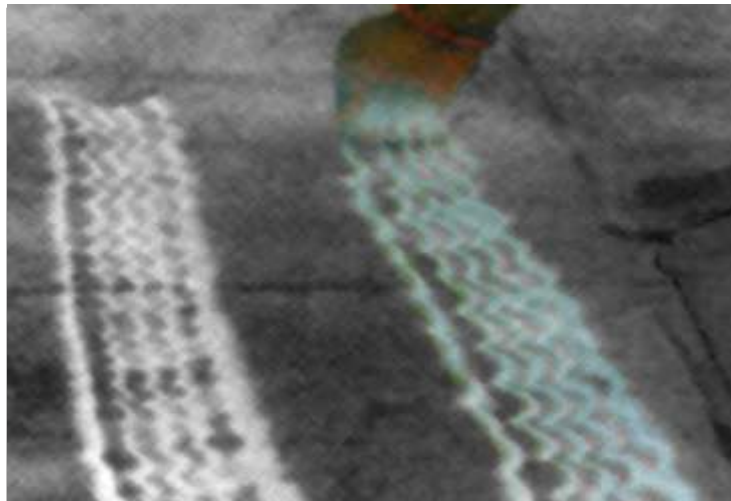


To draw a geometrical forms such as circle / circles then the best way to draw is as seen in the picture is to hold the thread in the centre point and holding the another tip of it with powder in hand ,one can draw a full circle/ circles.

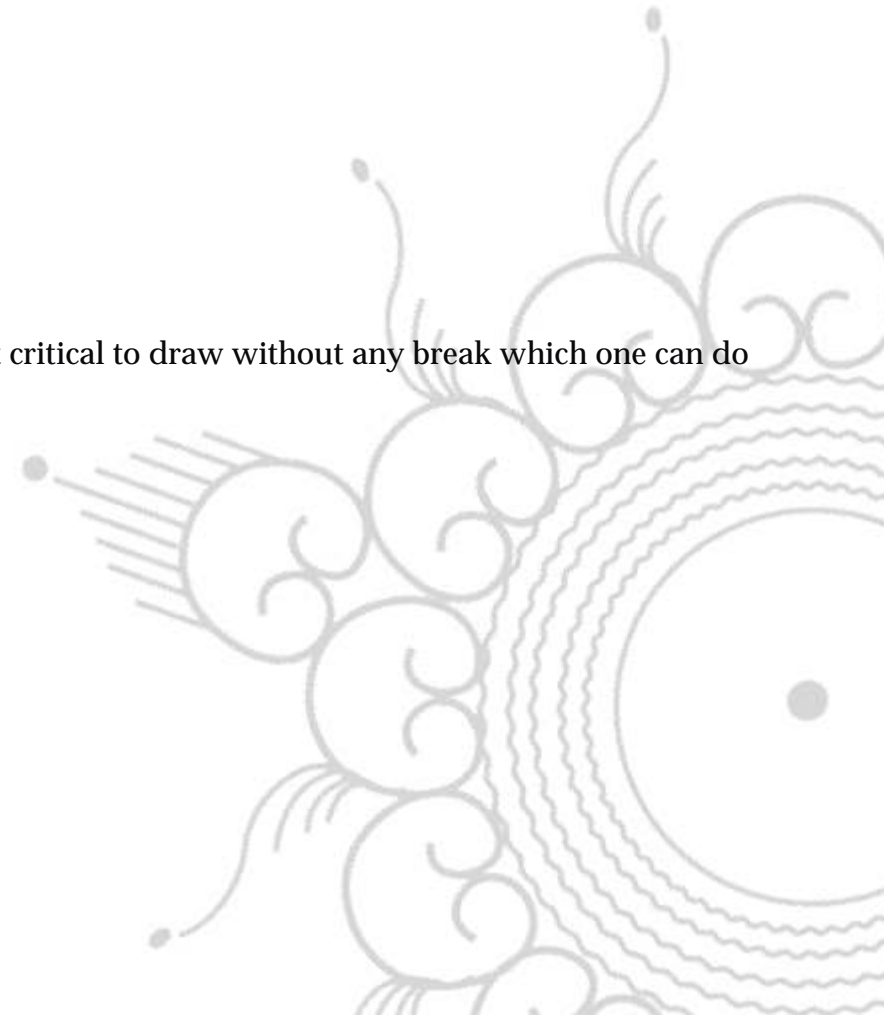




This rangoli is called as five fingers rangoli because drawing each and every line or dot one has to use five fingers which gives this rangoli a very prominent thickness and its beauty.



Serpentine line are most critical to draw without any break which one can do only by practicing.





The important thing about this rangoli is that it has some definite motifs, repeating them one can create most intricate but at the same time most attractive rangoli .

So using motifs and various forms, there are some design which itself used for decorating corners, spaces etc.

Ceremonial door-garland and arches

Laarge sized rangol

Rangoli's different shapes

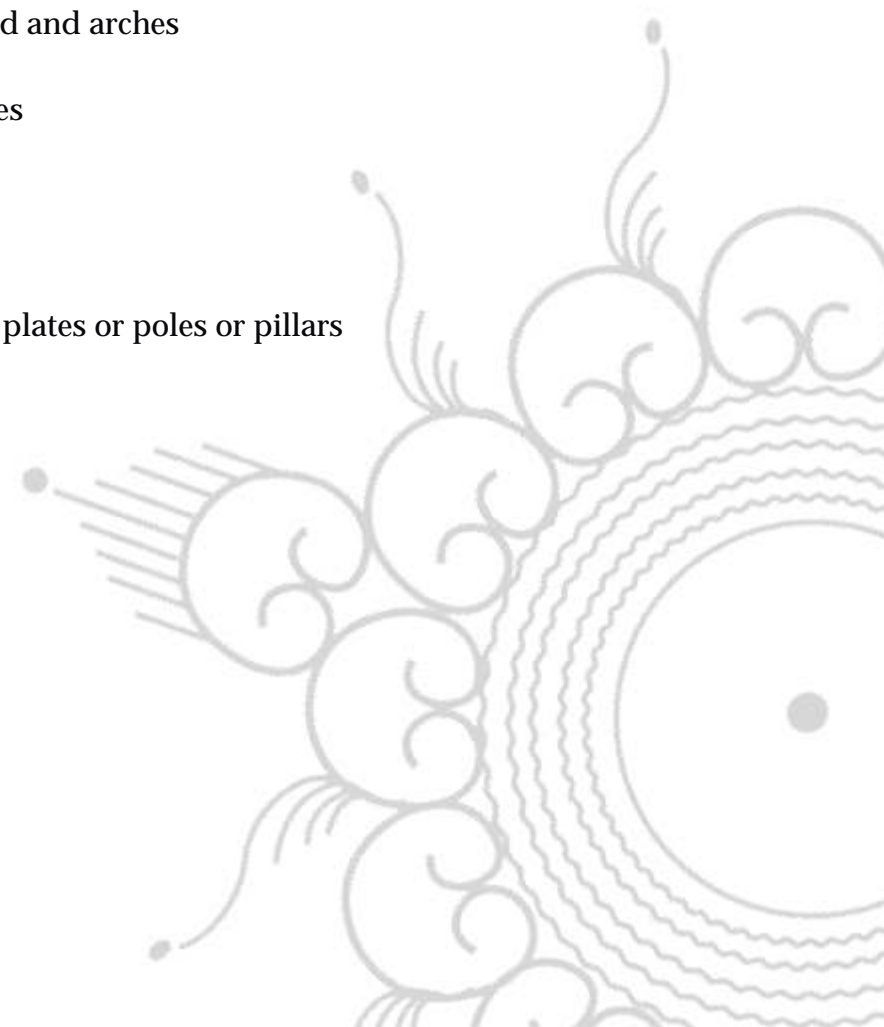
Half-moon

Koyari

Carpet:

Corner Rangolis

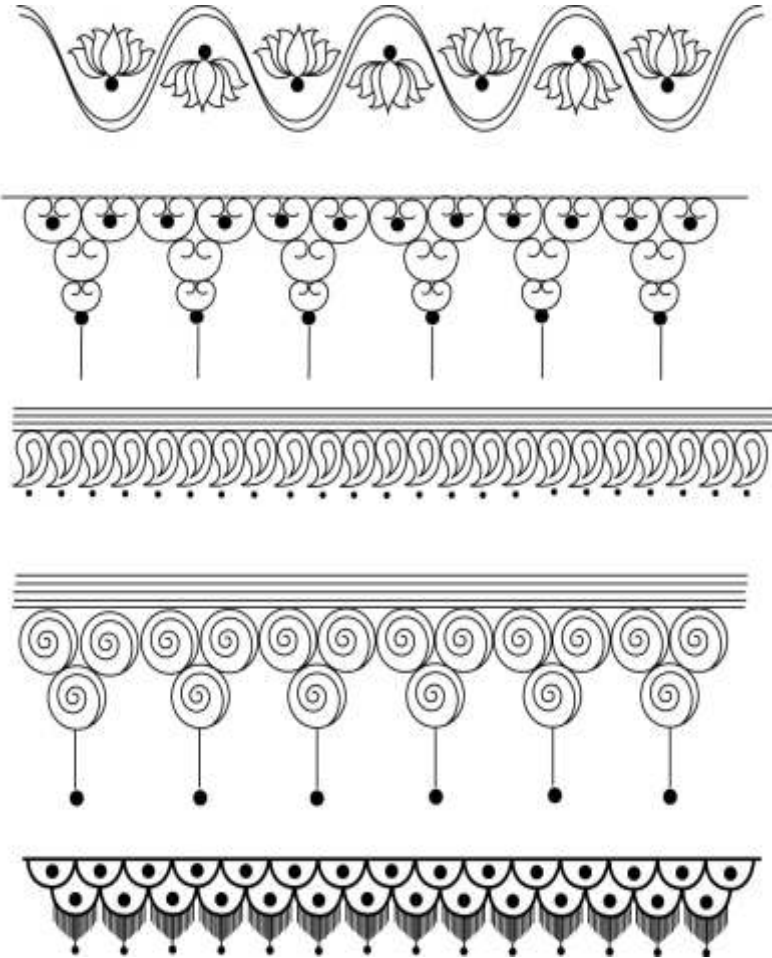
Rangolis around dining plates or poles or pillars



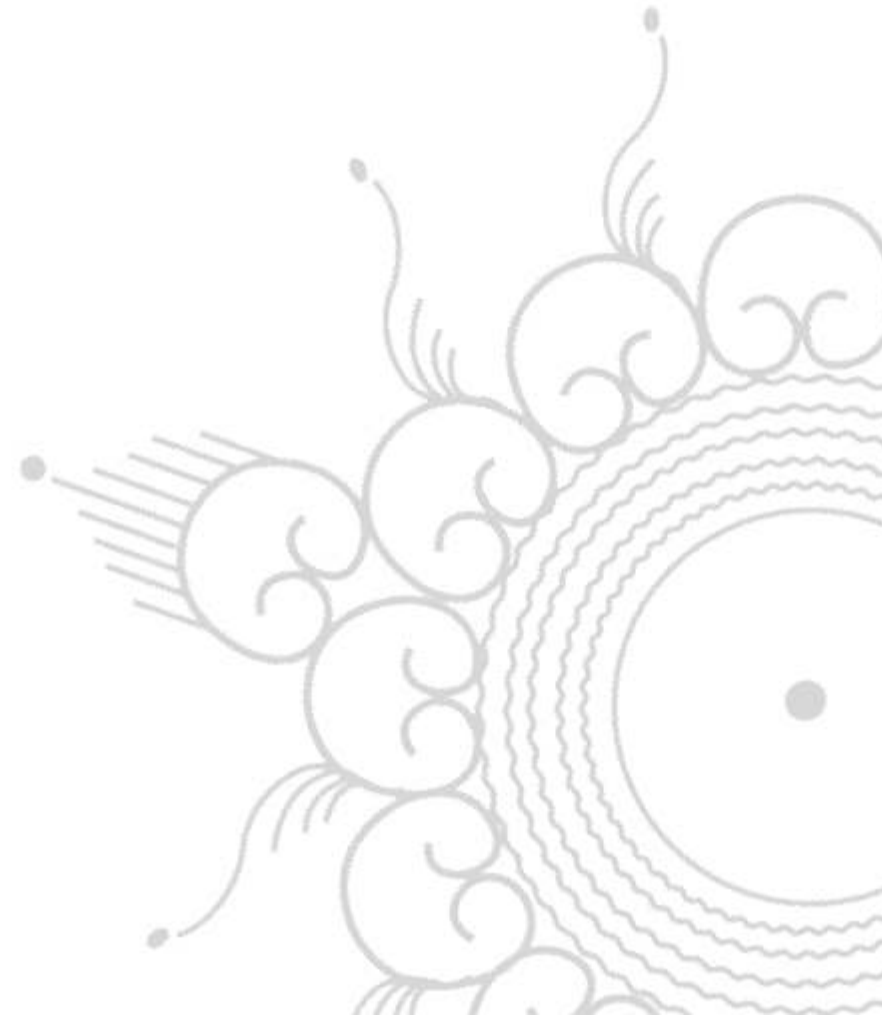


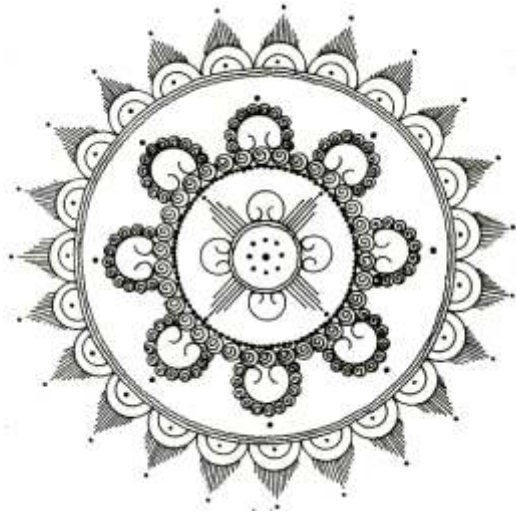
Ceremonial door-garland and arches

As a symbol of auspiciousness on auspicious occasion “*Toran*” (a garland)is hung on the upper part of the doorframe. Rangoli can be drawn by the side of the walls by using a chain of main symbols with various colors. One can have different types of Torans by using on or more symbols. The rounds can be drawn adjust to serpentine line and symbols can used around it.



Motifs used

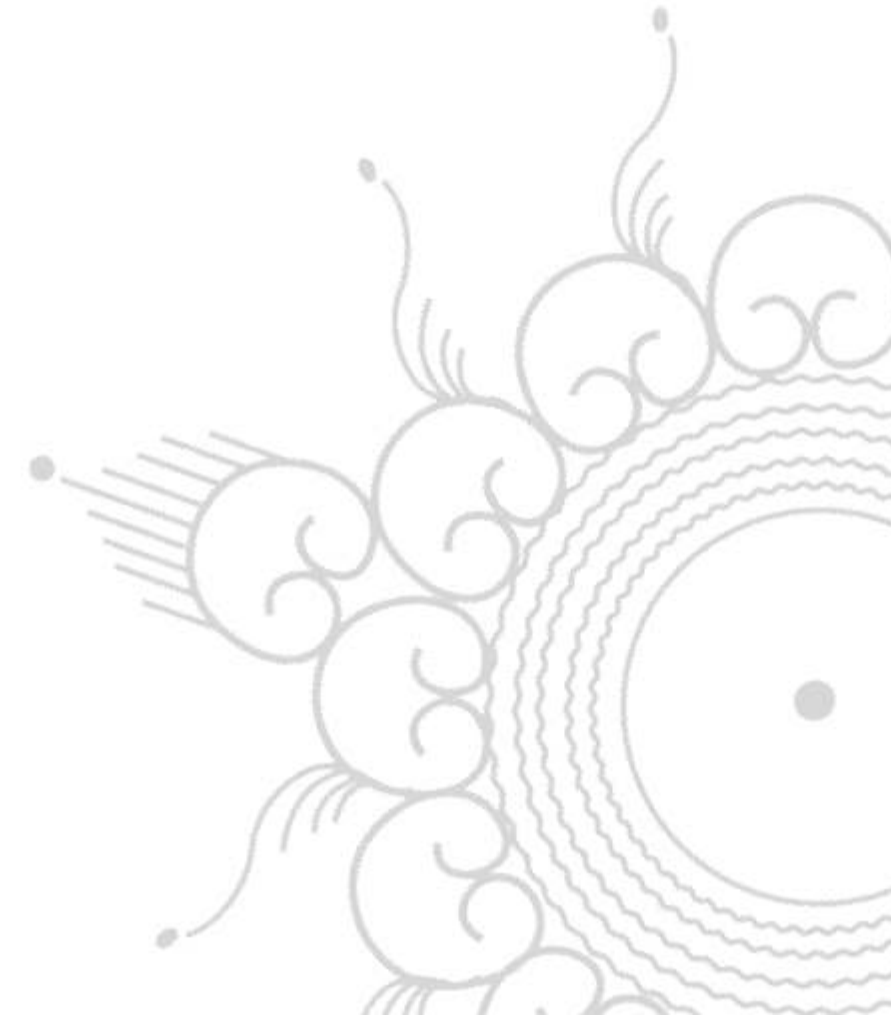




Large sized rangoli

Traditional auspicious signs can be used in different sizes. The circle(full moon) can be extended as far as one can . Mammoth and majestic rangolis can be drawn by using many color combination.

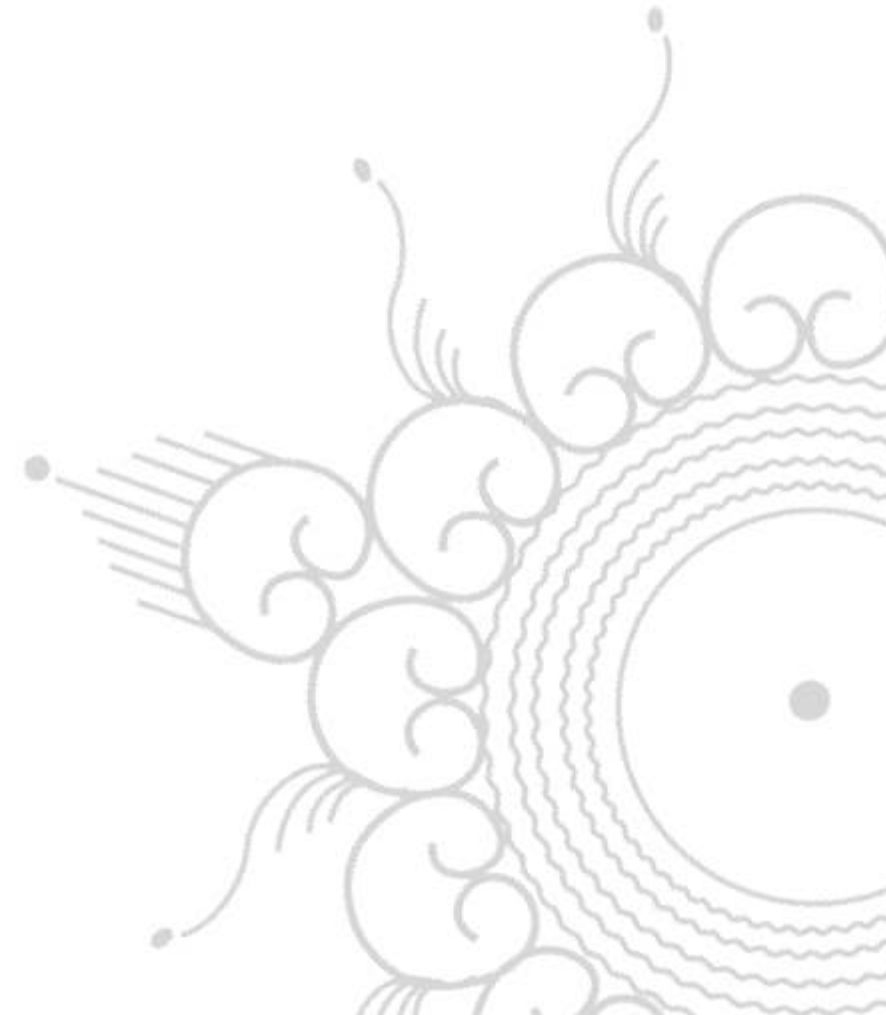
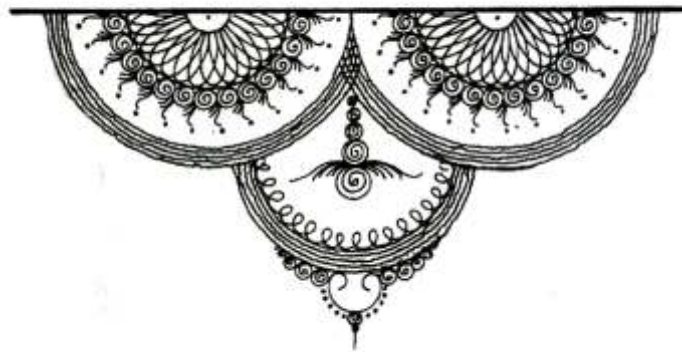
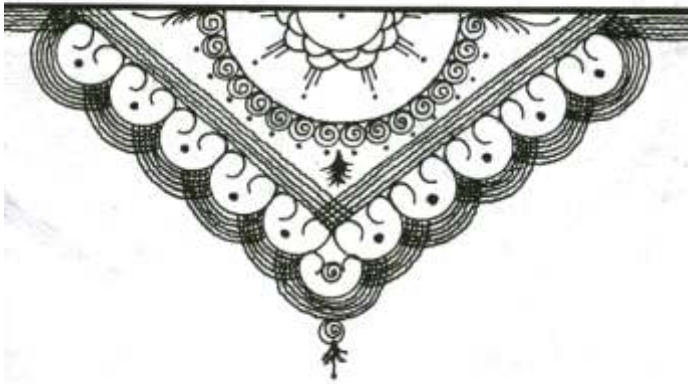
Motifs used





Rangoli's different shapes

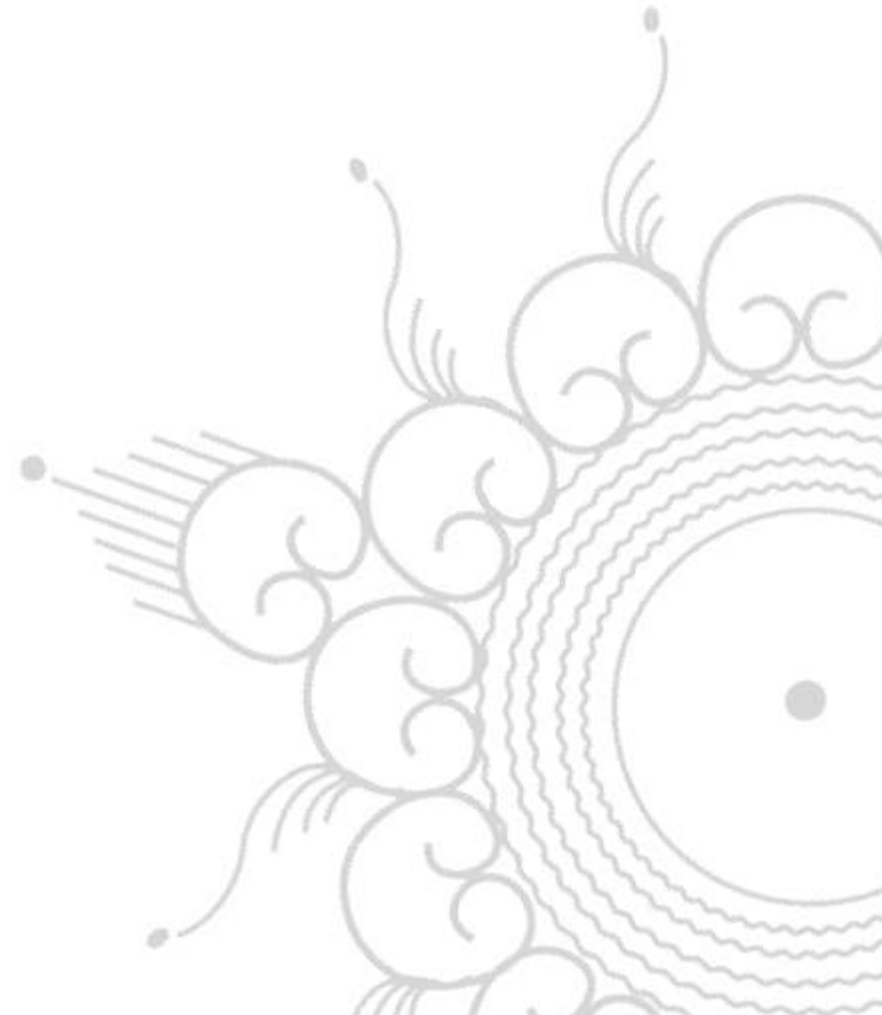
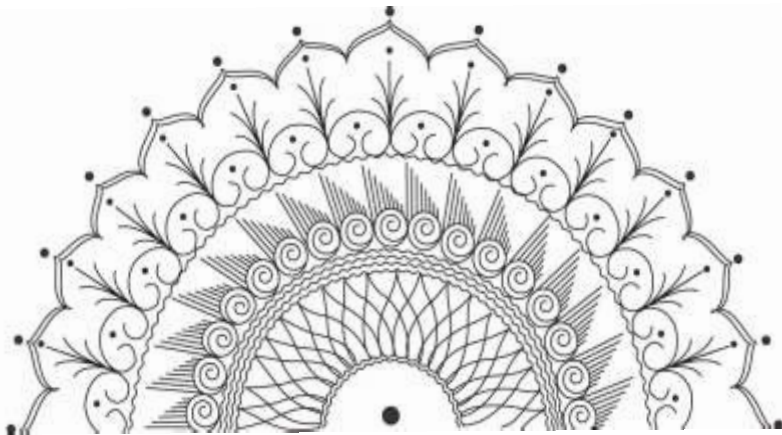
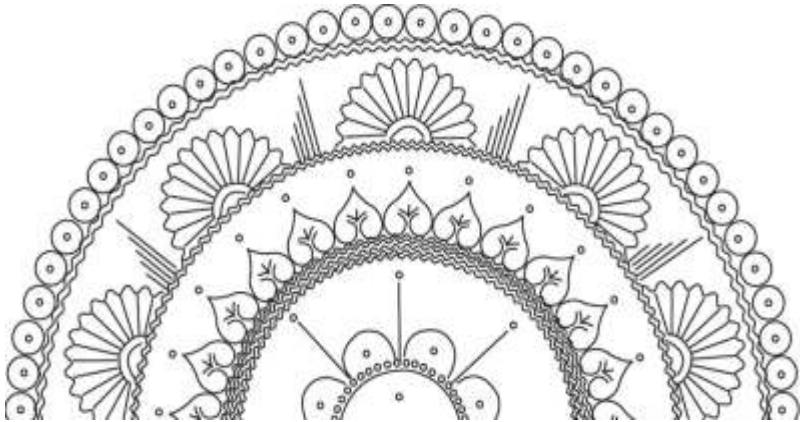
triangle, rectangle, pentagone , hexagon, octagon, rectangle arches, star-lotus, half-circle, necklace, ear rings can be drawn in various colors and creat enthralling climate.





Half-moon

These figures can be drawn against the backdrop of a wall or a dais. Different levels can have different colors combinations.

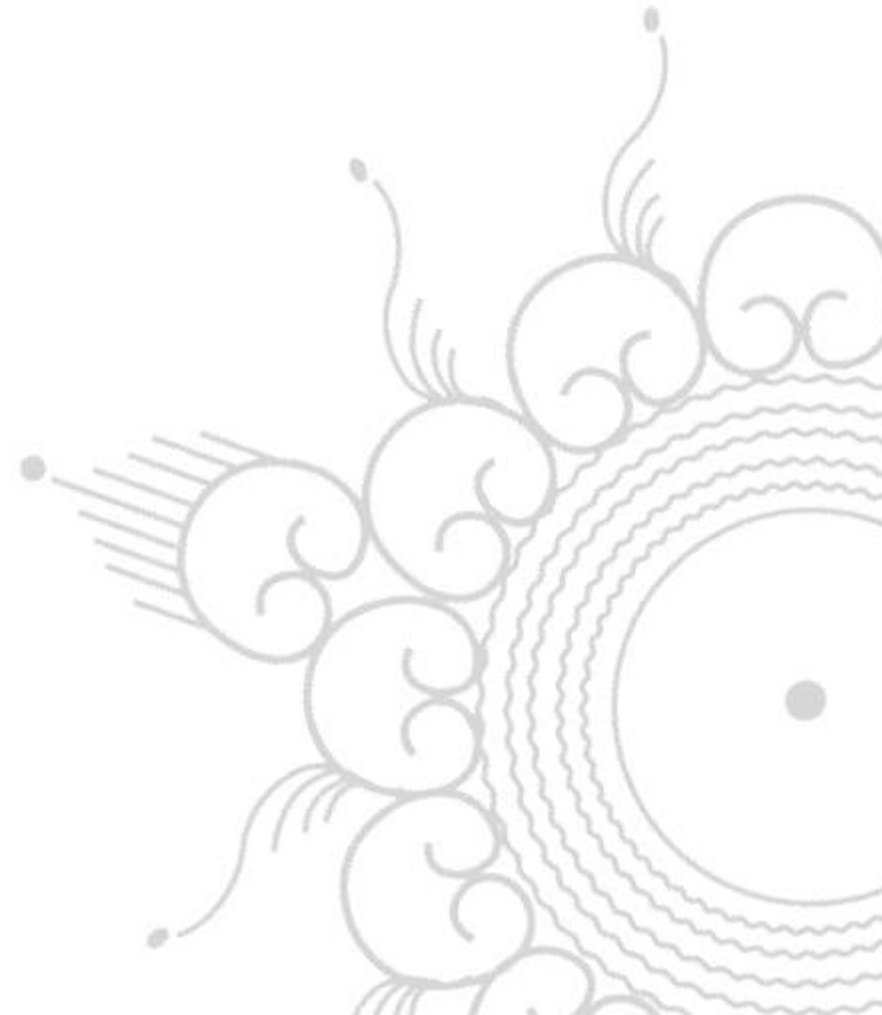




Koyari

Koyari is a symbol of artistic orientation .This can be used as a symbol in a large size rangoli. A flower or an arch can be drawn by using this symbol. Many patterns of peacock can be made out of koyari symbol.

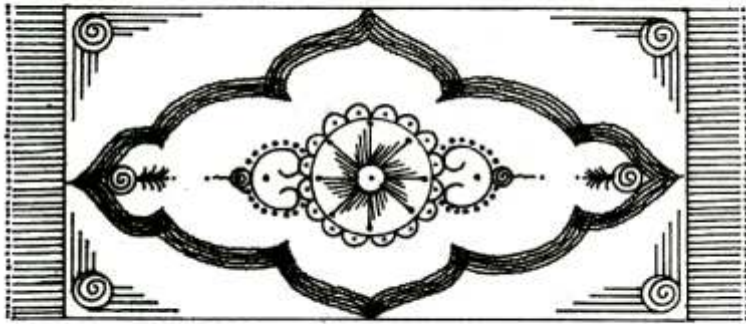
Motifs used



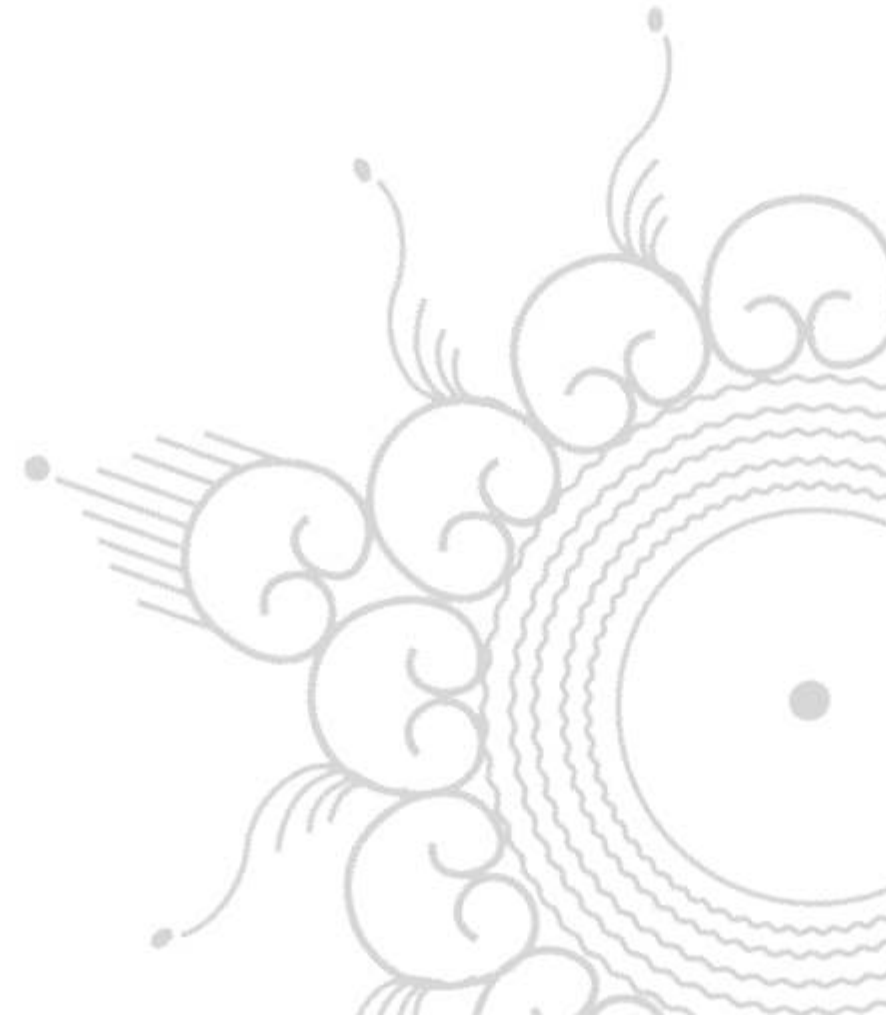
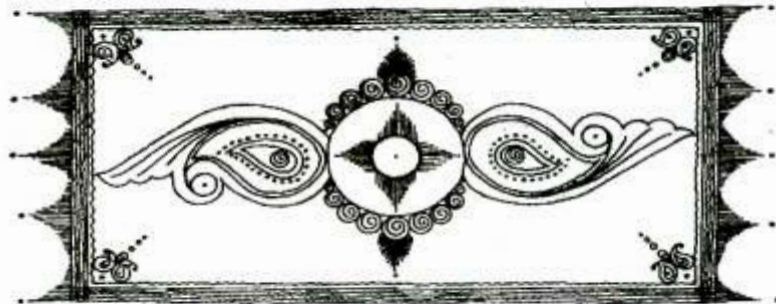


Carpet

In a rectangular shape various colors can be used to draw a carpet . A perfect color combination will make this carpet look beautiful. Small pieces of art can be inserted in internal space.



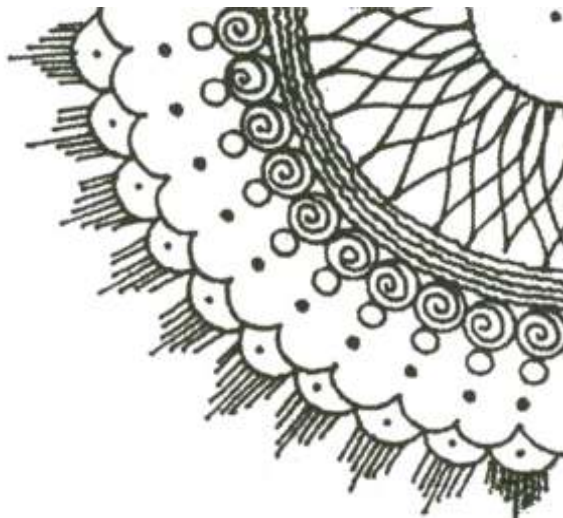
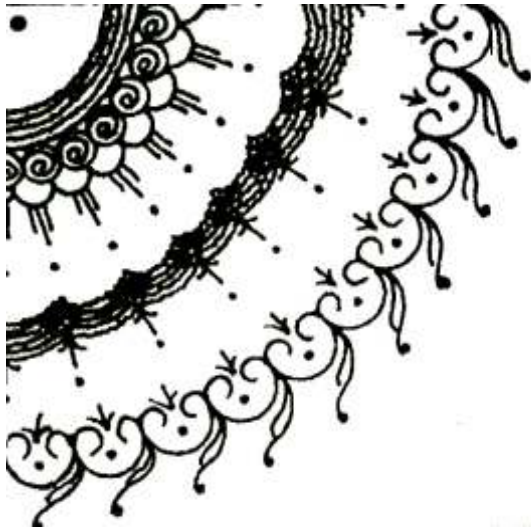
Motifs used



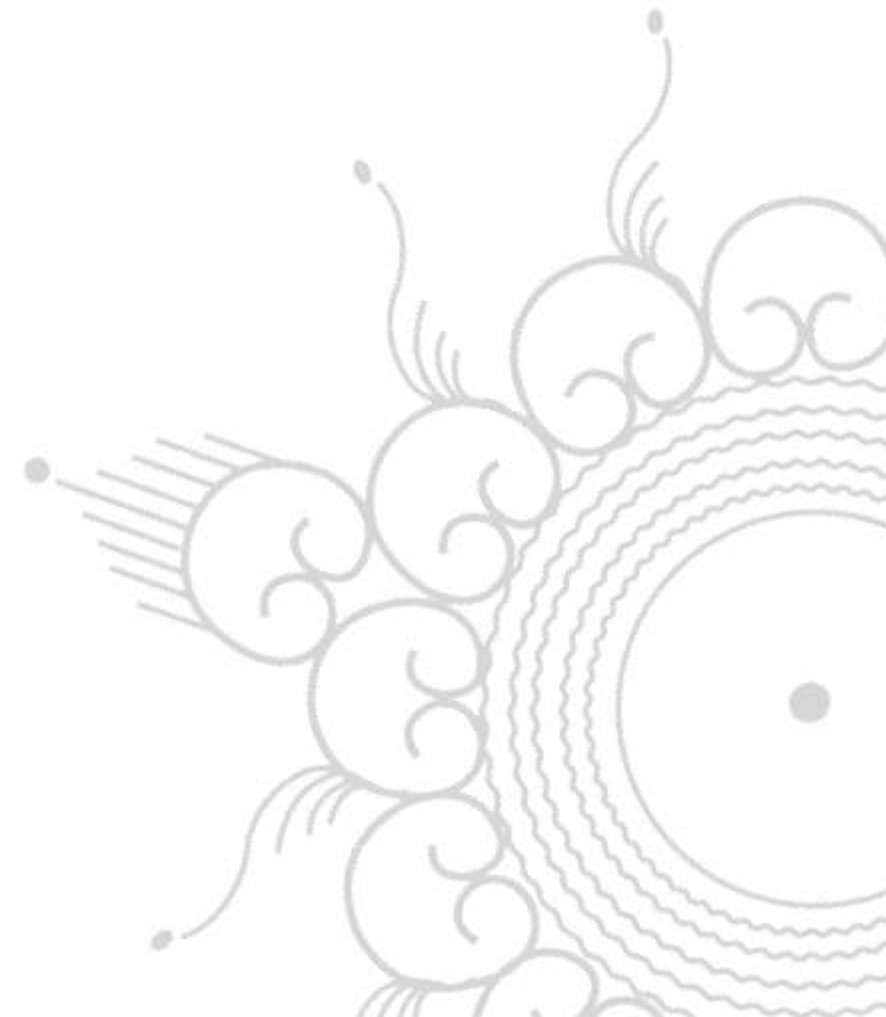


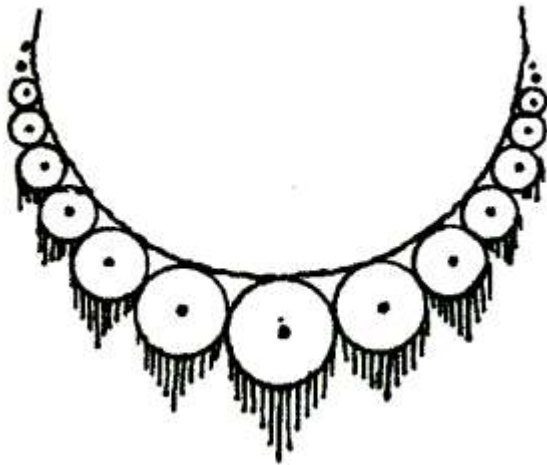
Corner Rangolis

The adjoining angular figures can be drawn by using corner space (which is the fourth of the total space) and various colors can be stacked af splashed to beautify the main work .



Motifs used

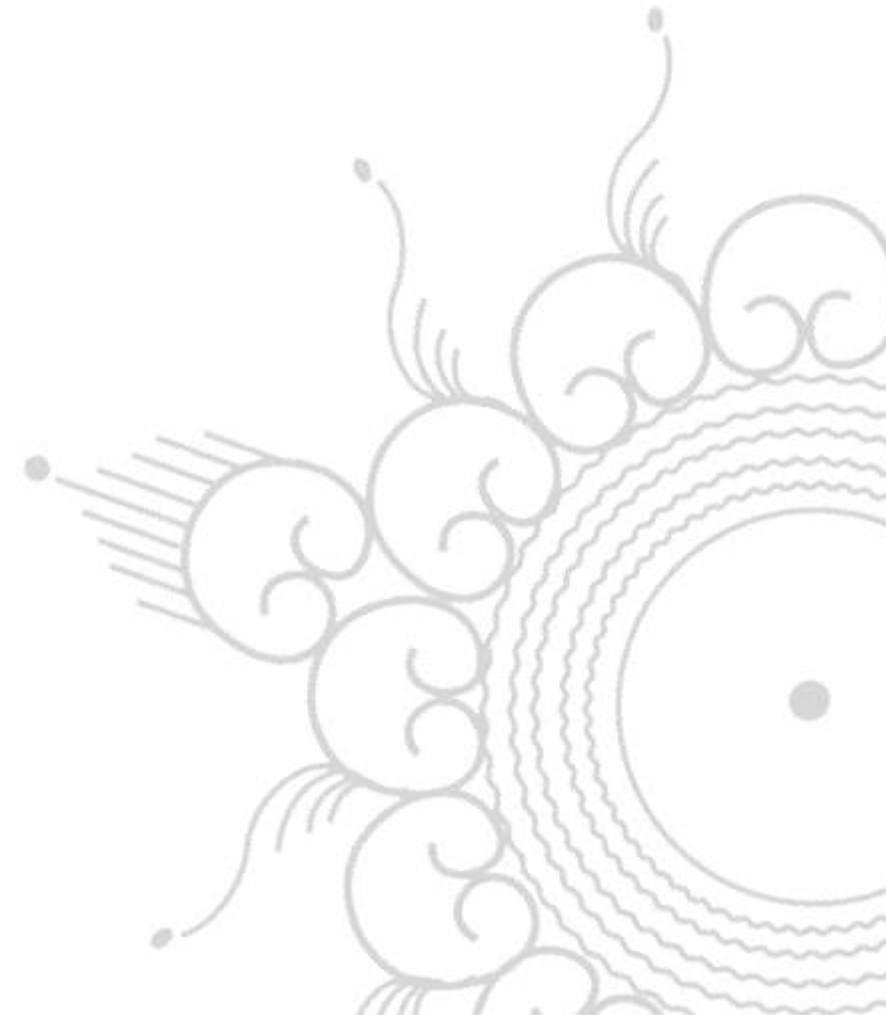




Rangolis around dining plates or poles or pillars

Such rangolis are drawn around ceremonial lamp, around the sitting square, dinning plate or around a pillar or as a garland with a little use of turmeric powder and red powder .

Motifs used



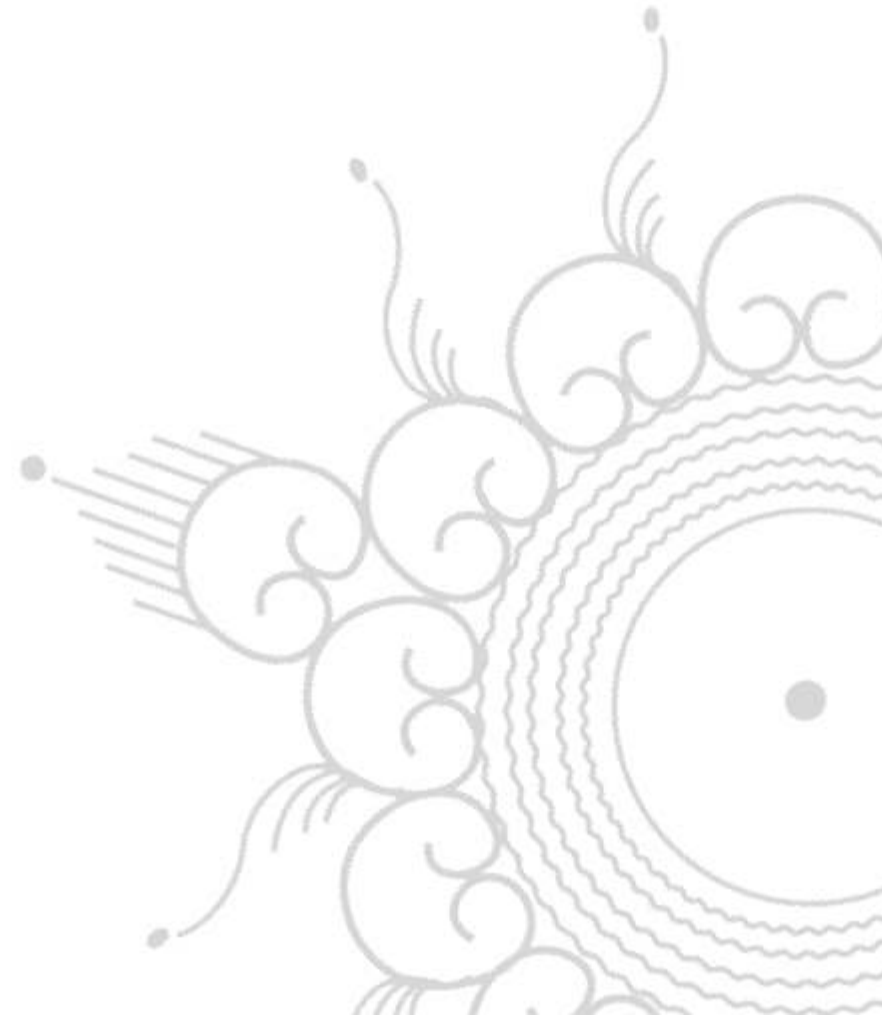


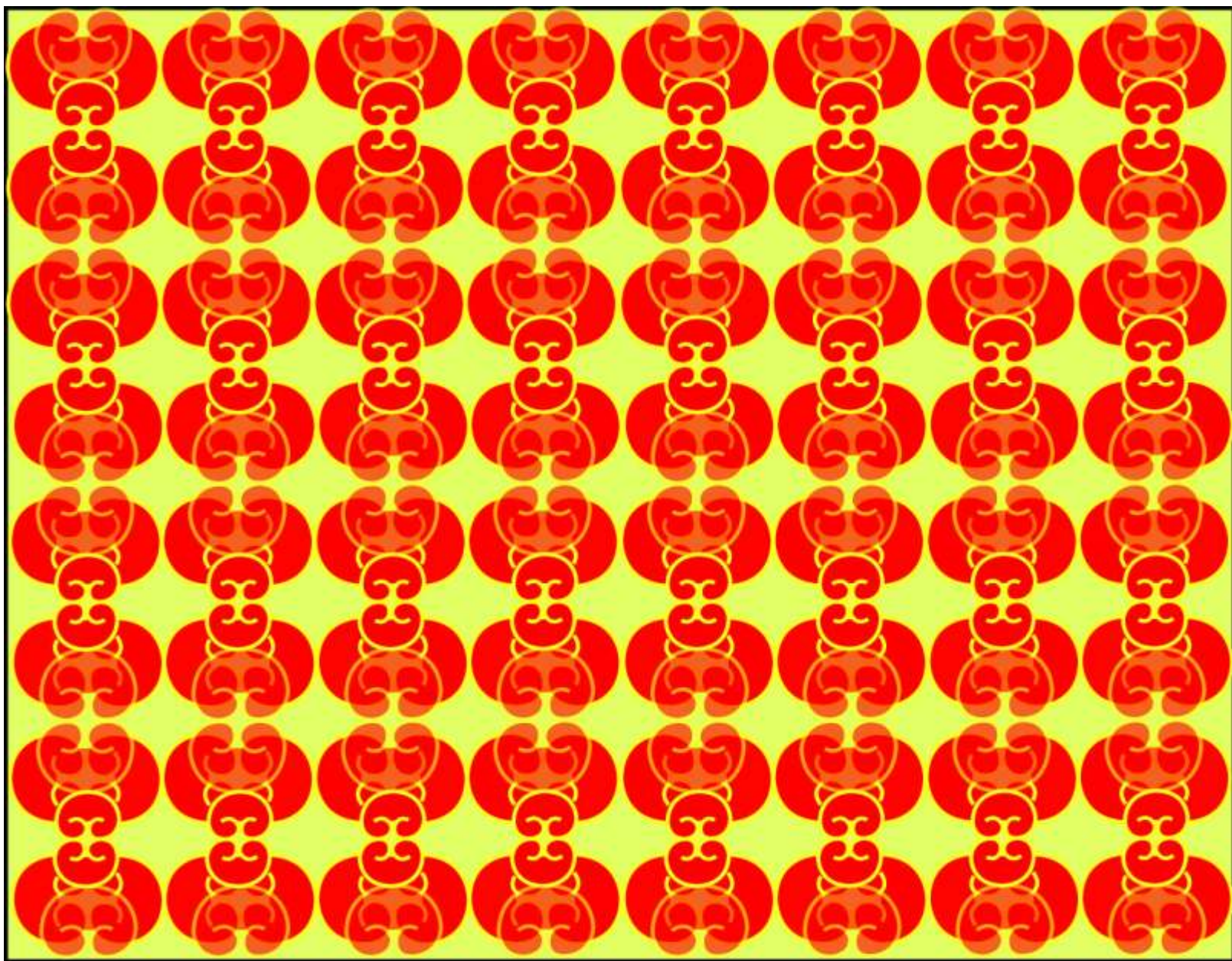


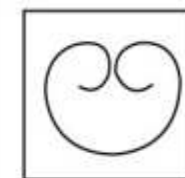
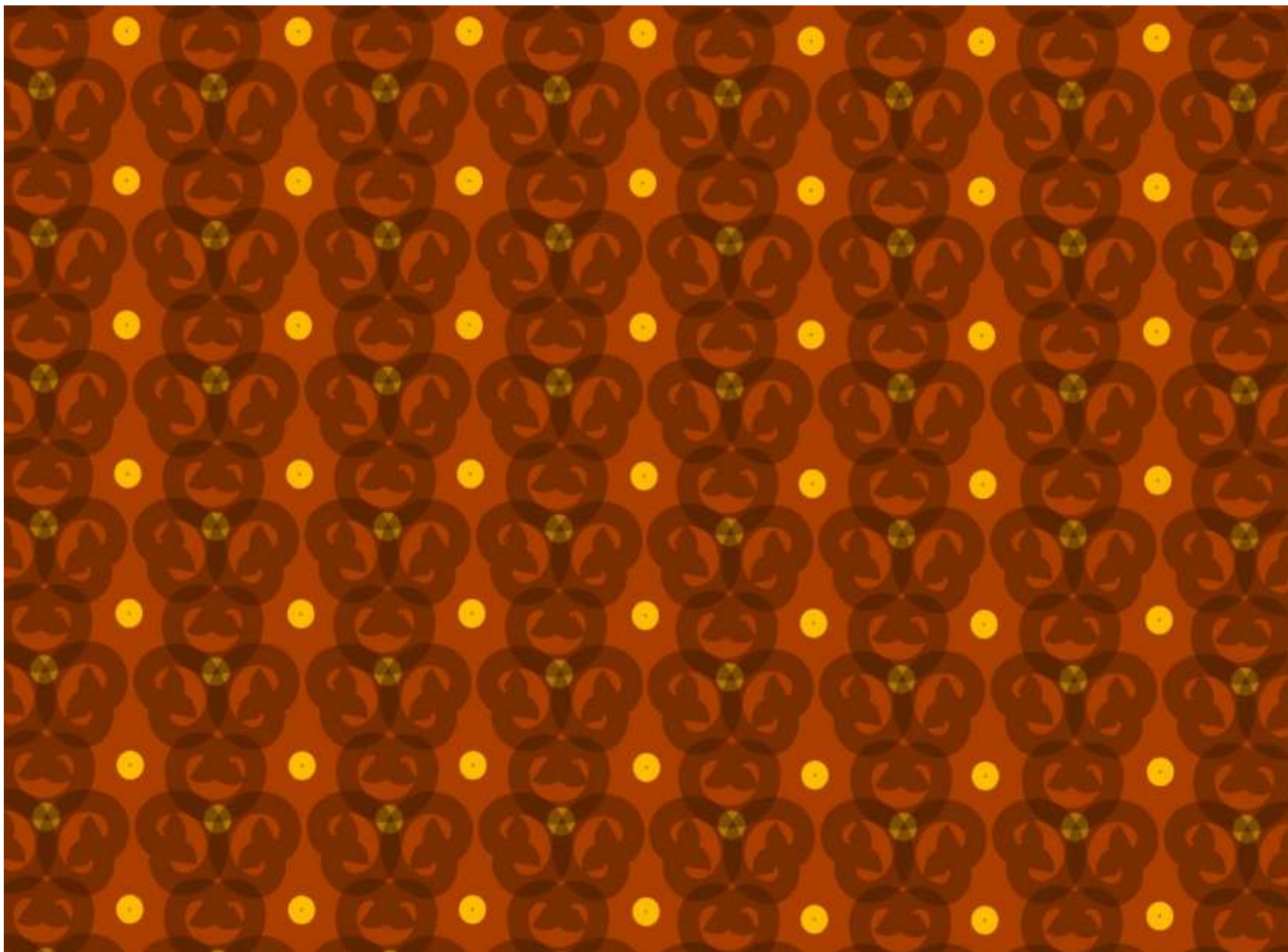


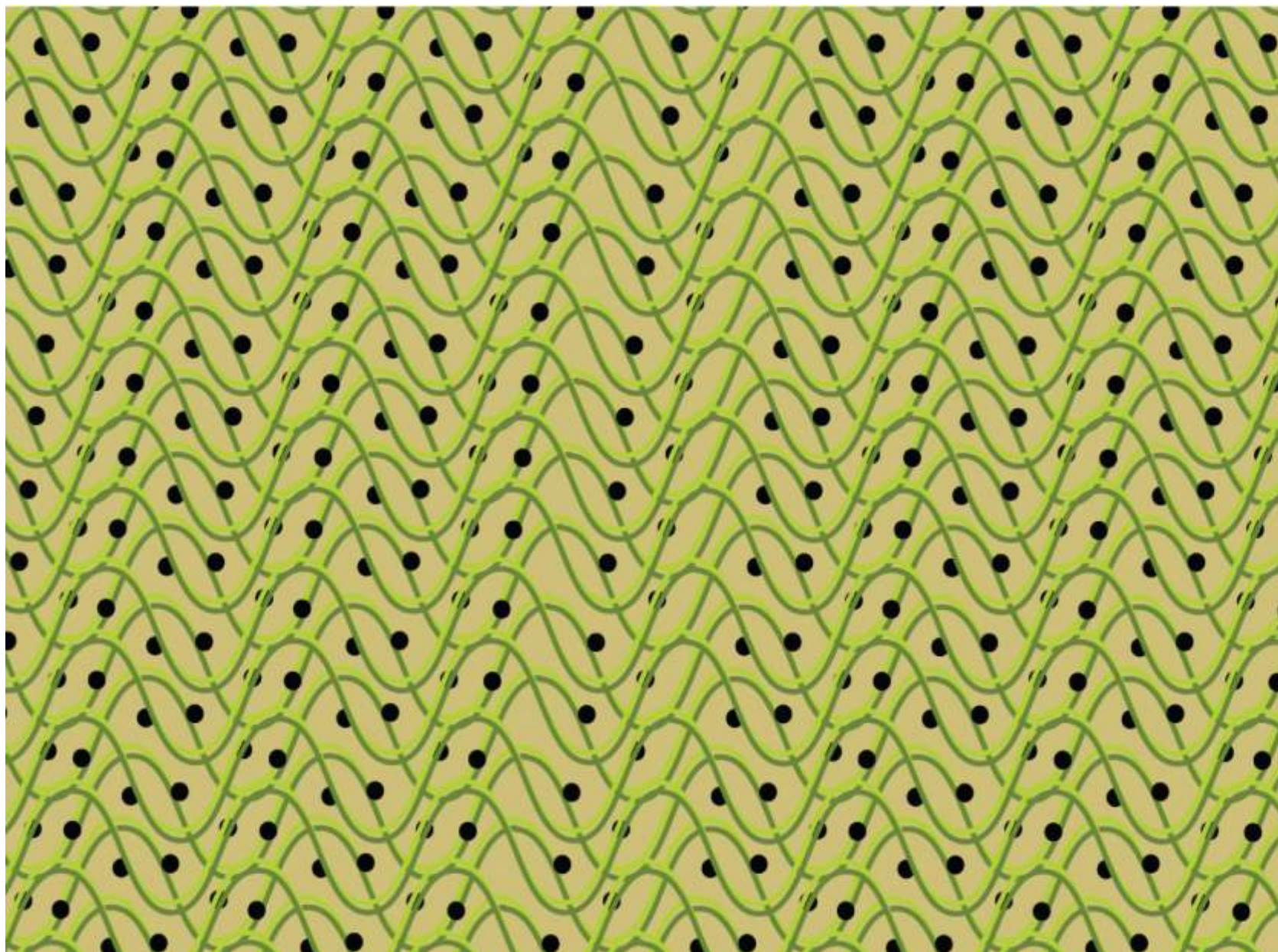
Decorative patterns

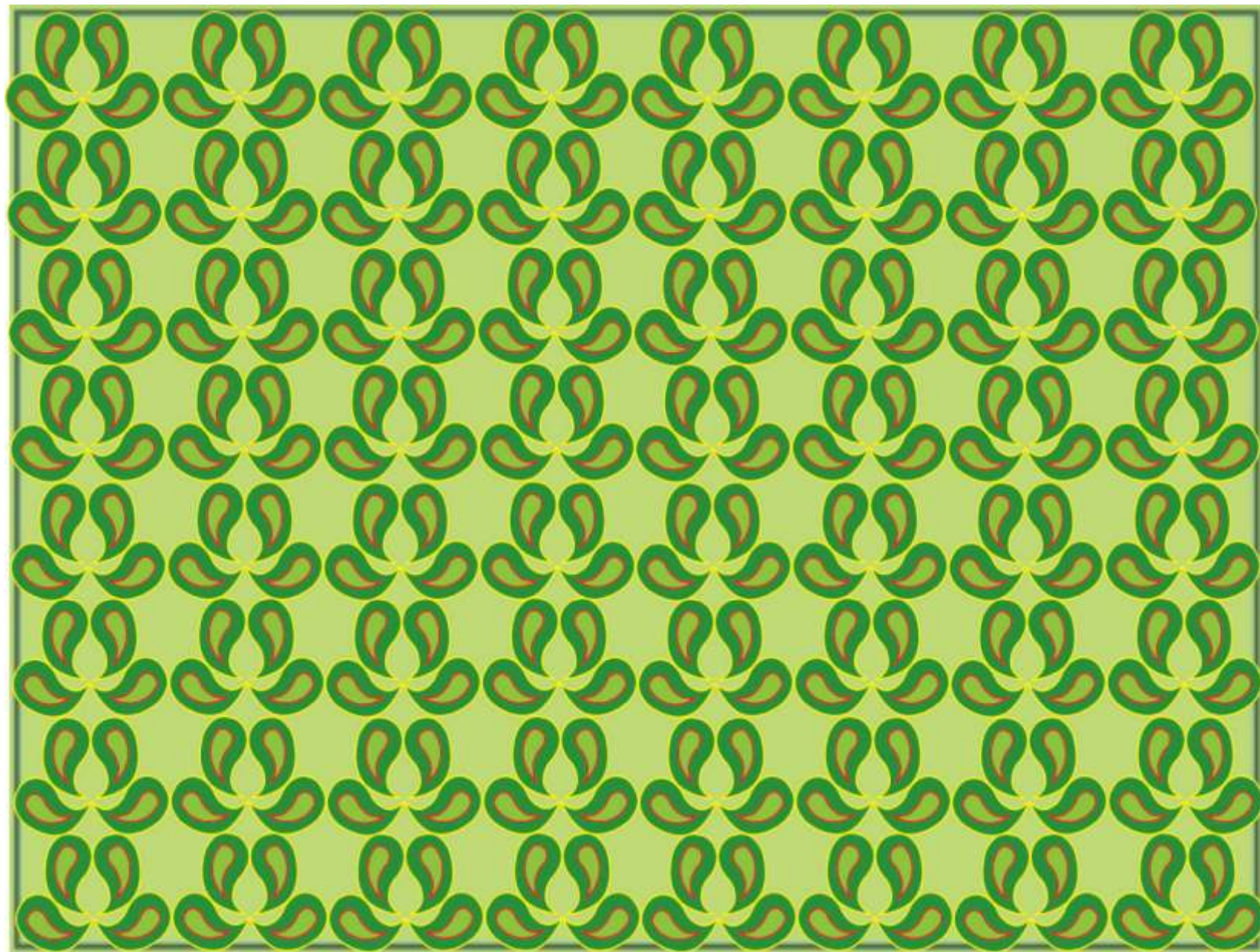
The major recurring decorative elements (motifs) in the rangoli such as koyari, the dot etc. were graphically reduced to basic elements. The patterns were created by using these elements













Application

The decorative patterns and the motifs are very important in this rangoli which can be used for various application such as

Decorating books, mugs, gifts,
Designing curtains, lamps, walls,
Decorative patterns on saree,
Designing tattoos on body etc.

Another application contained the modular game on rangoli.

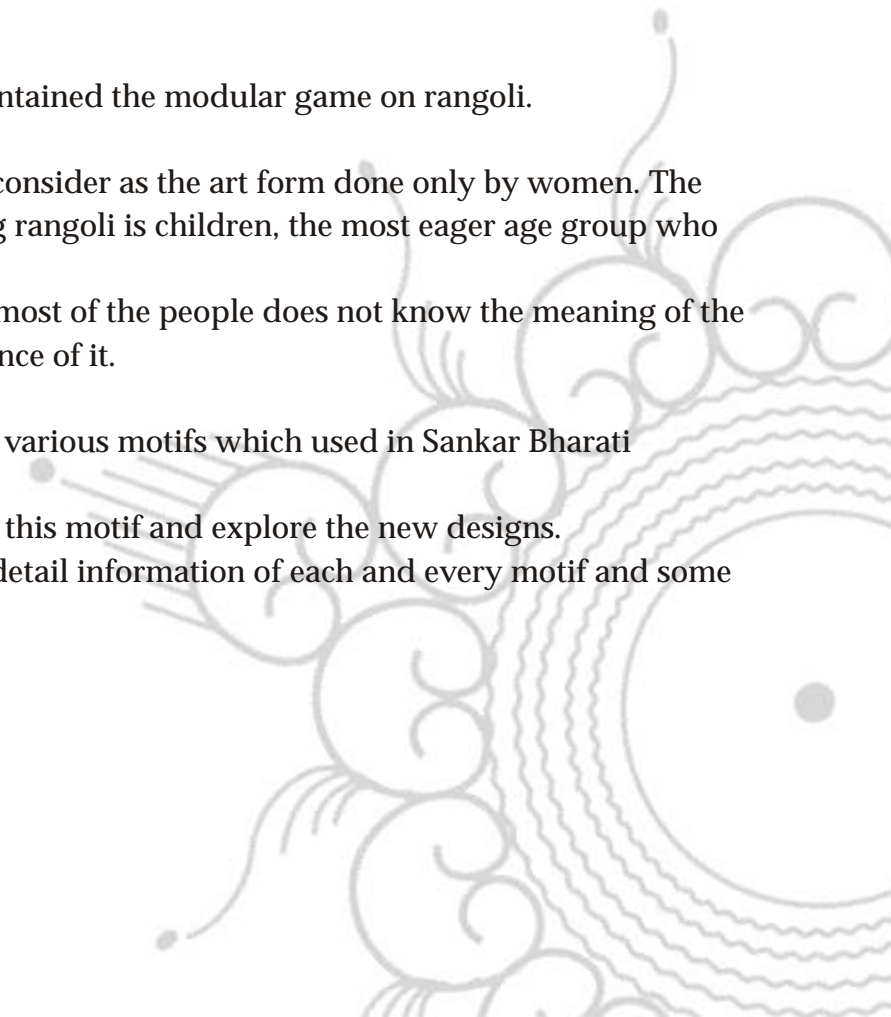
In India rangoli is still consider as the art form done only by women. The problem while drawing rangoli is children, the most eager age group who wants to play with it.

The other point is that most of the people does not know the meaning of the motifs and the importance of it.

This game contains the various motifs which used in Sankar Bharati rangoli.

Children can play with this motif and explore the new designs.

The brochure give the detail information of each and every motif and some



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People

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Mr. Gonji, Rangoli Researcher

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