

Design Resource

Contemporary Wooden Art - Nagpur, Maharashtra

Wooden Artifact

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth B.
NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<https://dsource.in/resource/contemporary-wooden-art-nagpur-maharashtra>



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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Introduction

India is a place of affluent diversity in every aspect, and its fertile soil anchors innumerable kinds of woods spread in different regions of the country. Wood makes a major raw material for many items, like lumber, furniture, panels, paper, chemical products, and religious objects. In short, wood is one of the important fuels that makes the world run smoothly. Hence, woodcraft is highly regarded and enjoys an extensive space in human life in the form of small articles like columns, window frames, pillars, reliefs, sculptures, decorative items, and many more. As the material brings endless possibilities, religious, decorative, or functional articles made out of wood endure application in every aspect of human life. Wood carving as an artistic expression as well as for various purposes has always prevailed in every society since the beginning of the Indus valley civilization. The woodwork met with extensive applications in the ancient temple and palace art, finished by expert artisans to highlight the grandeur of the structure. Then slowly, with increased knowledge over the characteristics of different kinds of wood, the works were divided into various categories as per their best utilities. The abundance of availability and their natural characteristics like texture, grain, colour, and feel make it an easy choice for carving works. Therefore particular varieties of woods are chosen by craftsmen according to the wood's characteristics and easy availability.

Mr. Rukshad Bhagwagar is a master craftsman from Nagpur, who runs an art gallery that exhibits wooden carving finished at their warehouse. He has been in this business for 25 years, employing many people from the locality and training them for the skills required. Here the only type of wood used for the making of wooden art is mango wood. The mango wood which is readily available in India, is primarily grown for its fruit but is usually cut down after seven years as it generally ceases to produce fruit. The reason for preferring this wood is because they are extremely durable and possess a unique grain pattern. During the making, the wood is oiled to change the colour and obtain an indented texture.

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The warehouse where unfinished and semi-finished artworks are stored.



Santa Claus models created for the Christmas season.

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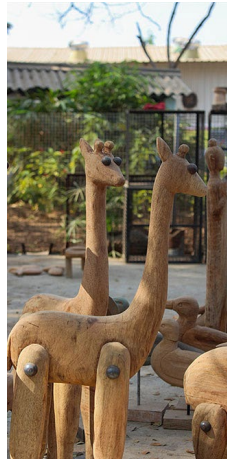
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Animal carvings for installations at playgrounds and parks.



Human face carvings.



Human figures in different body sizes.



Bunny (rabbit) carvings for Easter Celebrations.



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Old Wooden artwork depicting a dancing Goddess.



Sculptors working on various wooden artworks.

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Employees involved in painting jobs.



Mr. Rukshad Bhagwagar, an active partner of the firm.

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Awards and mementos received by the company from various institutions and competitions.

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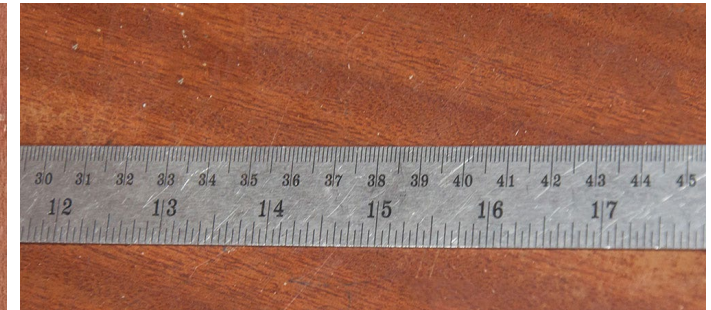
Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for Contemporary Wooden Art:

- **Wood:** Mango wood is used for the making of the art.
- **Chisel:** It is used to carve the features on the wood piece.
- **Mallet:** It is used to carve out the extra pieces.
- **Iron Rod:** It is used to attach the carved products with a wooden base.
- **Sandpaper:** It is used to smoothen the wooden surface.



Marker is used for marking the product design over a wooden log.



Ruler is used for measuring the dimensions while drawing.



Pencil is used for sketching the concept of new artwork on a paper.

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Sack is used for carrying the tools around.



U/V carving shaped tools are used for carving the curved shapes on the wood.



Cone-shaped wood is used as a hammer to carve the wood.



Chisel and axe are used for chopping and sculpting the wood.

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Wood scraper is used for scraping fine layers of the wood.



Black colored oil paint is used for painting the surface of the wood.



Sandpaper is used for smoothing the surface of the wood.



Coloured powder is mixed to make many other vibrant colours.

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Melamyne Thinner is used for giving a glossy finish to the wood surface.



Wood putty is used to fill the cracked surfaces.



Cloth is used for wiping the extra paints and dust from the wood.



Melamyne Hardener is coated over the wood for better finishing.

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Making Process

Firstly, the craftsman draws an intended product design over a wooden log, using a marker pen. Here mango wood is usually used as the block. This marked block is then set for the carving process. Using a chisel and mallet, unwanted parts and pieces of the wood are scraped out. After the extra portions are removed, the artisan starts with the facial features of the art, only if a human or animal figure is under construction. These features are created with the help of a small size chisel. Once the shapes and forms are carved well, its surfaces are smoothed by rubbing sandpaper over them. This brings the carving process to a halt. Now a primer is coated over the product for the durability of the paint, followed by the application of paint using a brush. At times, this prepared product is burned to achieve a different look and shade. Iron rods are also used, while the final product requires a combination of a number of wooden elements. These small portions are attached to each other with iron rods hammered to the surfaces. As the last step, the polish is applied to the product and allowed to dry.

Flow Chart



MAKING PROCESS

1. The required design is drawn on the wooden surface.
2. The marked block is further processed for carving.
3. The unwanted portion of a block is scrapped out.
4. Different chisels are used for giving facial features.
5. A sandpaper is used for giving smoothness to the surface.
6. Wood polish is applied and allowed to dry.
7. The ready product is burnt to get semi-burnt shades.

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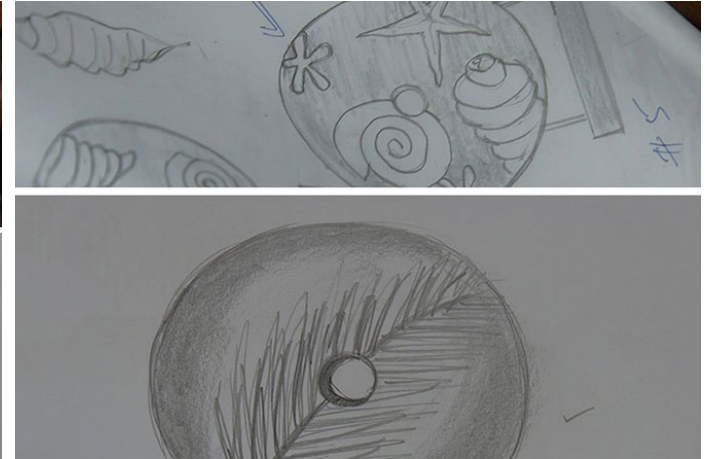
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At the beginning of the process, a rough sketch of the product is drawn on a paper.



Then an authorized person reviews the sketches and approves the design apt for production.



Using a permanent marker, an artist is drawing the approved design on a wood log.



Chisels and knives are sharpened using a whetstone, and made ready for the carving process.

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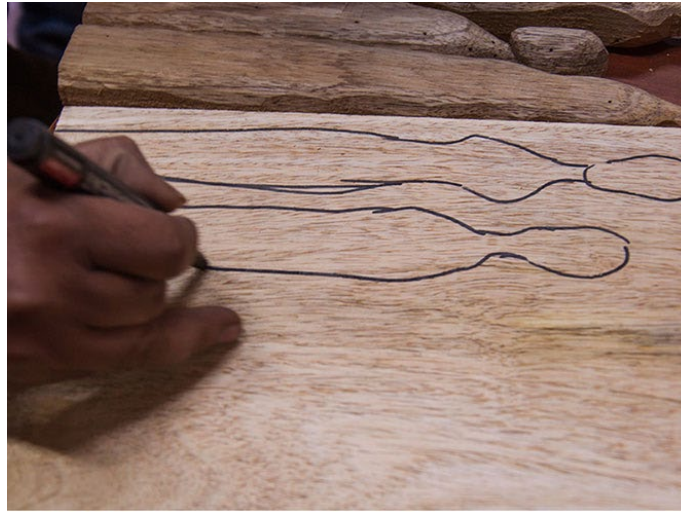
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At times, artists use old carved works as stencils or references to bring in modifications over the piece under construction.

Various types of chisels are used for shaping the figures on the artwork.

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Artist carefully chips the excess wood with chisels by hammering on the other end.



Sketching of anatomical features of the figure before sculpting to achieve a perfect idol at the end.



Using a wood scraper, wood is scraped off for smooth surfaces.



Finer details are carved using a flatter chisel.

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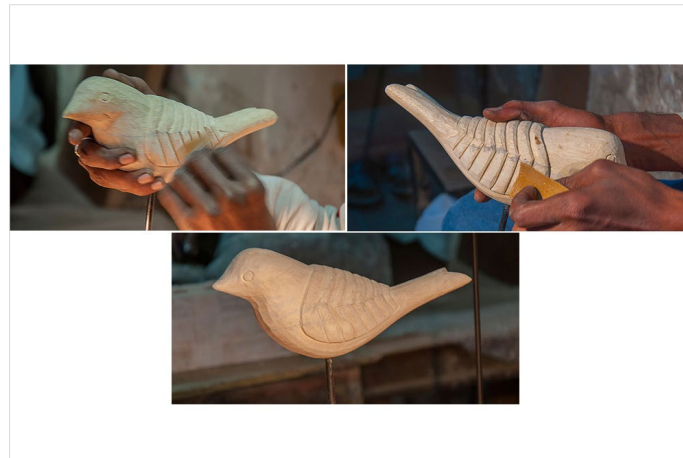
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Facial carvings are a time-consuming step, as it demands utmost accuracy.



After the model is done, sandpaper is used for smoothening the surfaces.



Wood Primer is mixed in a container with an oil-based solution.

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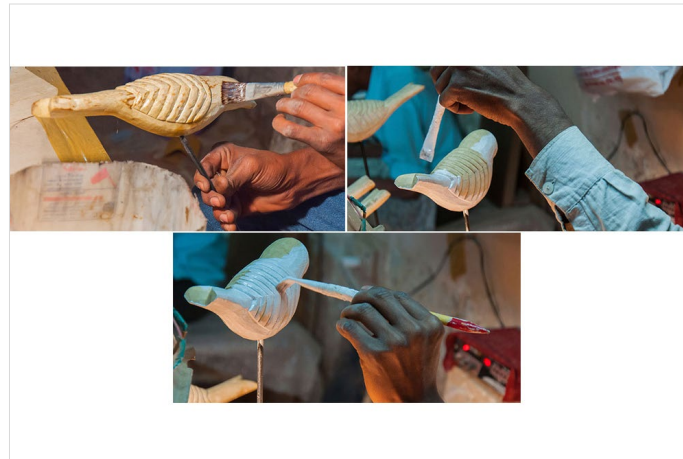
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Several coats of Wood Primer are applied on the surface of the model.



Wood putty is mixed in a small bowl.



Using a small plywood sheet, putty is applied and smeared to the wood surface.



In a container, black paint is mixed with thinner.

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Using a flat brush, colour is painted onto the surface of the model.



Towards the end, Melamyl solution is applied over the product for a glossy look.



Some of the models are even burned in the fire by expert artisans, to get a semi burned texture.



After Burning, another coat of paint is applied on the surface for cleaner finishing.

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Products

Wooden artifacts are used for various purposes, starting from home decor, site decoration, functional products to utility goods. The sizes are often set to vary as per the requirements of the customers and orders, eventually affecting the price that retracts between INR. 300 to INR. 2000. Range of products made at Nagpur based Mr. Rushad Bhagwagar's workspace, includes wooden animals, fish, robots, Buddha sculptures, wine bottles, Christmas trees, seashells, and many more, which owns the potential to attract the attention of people for their finishing and unique look.



An angel with a blend of two different materials; metal and wood.

To the left is a wooden tribal figure and a metallic idol of an angel is placed to the right.



Carving of a real size crocodile head.

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Santa Claus, snowman, reindeer figures as Christmas home decors.



Wood Carvings of a witch, skulls, and other spooky things for the Halloween celebrations.



Completed wooden model of a tribal man.

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Geometrical shapes used in the production are displayed.



A wooden showpiece with moral meaning.

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Mexican traditional skulls are made to honor the land of remembrance. Sculpture of Lord Buddha as a decorative item.

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Wood Carving of a witch for Halloween celebrations.



Abstract tree sculpture.

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Stylized carving of a man in a tuxedo suit.



Wooden model of wine bottles and glasses.

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Video



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