

Design Resource

## Mural Art - Nagpur, Maharashtra

A Piece of Artwork

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baraland Srikanth B.  
NID, Bengaluru

Source:

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



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2. Tools and Raw Materials
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4. Products
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## Introduction

The state of Maharashtra treasures a wide variety of handicrafts, most of them dating back to the ancient times of Marathas, Mughals, and even British rule. Maharashtra is the second largest population in India, houses various kinds of communities, cultures, and customs, making the existent handicrafts naturally diverse. Resting on the rich history and heritage, the top towns and cities here attract lakhs of tourists every year, especially in the parts of Pune, Nasik, Nagpur, Kolhapur, Mumbai, and Ajanta Ellora, boasting up the tourist value of the place. The state supports Handicrafts tradition practiced by the natives, to build avenues for its growth and survival while adding to the nation's creative wealth simultaneously. Hence, the availability and diversity of Handicrafts from Maharashtra are huge. Some of the noted works include the famous Sawantwadi work, Bidri works, Kolhapuri leather-work, Himroo and Mashru weaving, Warli painting, Banjara embroidery, and many more.

### Mural Art

In ancient times, along with philosophical ideas, concepts of Indian art also spread widely to every corner of Asia. Mural art is one such estimable element in this treasury of crafts and ideas. A mural is a piece of art painted directly on a wall, ceiling, or other permanent surfaces, distinguished with its characteristic of maintaining the architectural grandeur of the given space harmoniously even when drawing over it. The history of Indian murals traces back to early medieval times, from the 2nd century BC to 8th – 10th century AD, with its sharp remains still found from almost 20 locations around the country including the cave monuments of Ajanta, Bagh, Sit-tanavasal, Armamalai, Ravan Chhaya rock shelter and Kailasanatha temple from Ellora Caves. During the 11th and 12th centuries, this pattern of large-scale wall paintings saw a slow shift to miniature paintings, which were first introduced on palm-leaf manuscripts, later to be depicted on ivory, small stones, papers, canvas, etc. The difference between murals and graffiti is often misunderstood for its motive behind the application. Murals are a piece of art created with the permission of the property owner and most of the times they are paid for doing so while graffiti is any unsanctioned material posted or painted on public or private property mostly to express dissent, aggression, or to claim areas through images, letter-based tags or designs. Many artists do Mural art as a hobby, some of them turn it into a profession. They displayed their creativity in their art gallery. Mrs. Shweta Khapekar is one such artist. She owns an art gallery named Shypra home decor at Nagpur. She is working on mural painting handicrafts for over four to five years. The home decors are being exported within India. The sizes are as per the customer's requirement. The products are Mural painting, key holder, wall hanging, Clocks, wooden pot, mix medium, ceramic handicraft, and wooden handicraft.

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An art gallery named 'Shypra Handicrafts', based in Nagpur.

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An artisan involved in the making of Mural Art.



A mural work depicting a flower.



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Workplace at the center where handicrafts are made.



Finished products showcased for sale.



Nameplates and Mural works displayed on the entrance of Shypra Handicrafts.



Mrs. Shweta Khapekar, owner cum senior artisan of the Shypra Handicrafts art center.

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## Tools and Raw Materials

The tools and raw materials that are used for Mural Art are as follows:

- **Pencil:** It is used to sketch characters and draw border outlines.
- **Acrylic Colours:** These are used to paint the artifacts.
- **Paintbrushes:** Flat-bristle paintbrushes of various sizes are used for applying colours to the image drawn.
- **Painter's Palette:** It is used as a base to mix acrylic colours.
- **MDF Board:** A board on which the mural sketch is drawn.
- **Ceramic Powder:** It is used to make clay dough that forms the shapes on the mural art.
- **Plaster of Paris (POP):** POP forms the base layer for the mural art that holds the ceramic clay tight and helps give a glossy look when painted.
- **Synthetic Adhesive:** It is mixed with ceramic powder in appropriate proportions for its property of binding things together.



Bowl is used to mix ingredients.



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Synthetic Adhesive is used as a mixture component.



Ceramic Powder is used as a mixture component in making the dough.



A knife is used to make impressions on the mural art.



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Acrylic colours and brushes are used to paint.



A wooden board is used as a base layer.



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## Making Process

Firstly, the artisan sketches a mural design on the MDF board of 6mm thickness to make mural art. While sketching, the direction of an imaginary light source is marked, and accordingly, the placement of highlights and shadows is determined. Then Synthetic adhesive and POP are mixed in a 1:1 ratio to form a paste that is applied over the board and spread evenly with a knife. Another clay dough is made using ceramic powder and synthetic adhesive to create embossing shapes.

This clay is usually rolled over a workspace dusted with ceramic powder. The rolls are shaped into indented figures and then stuck to the POP-coated board. Here the artisan makes necessary impressions over this, using a pen or the end tip of a paintbrush. After the ceramic is adequately dried, it is painted with acrylic colours.



Ceramic powder is poured into a bowl.



Synthetic Adhesive being poured into the ceramic powder.



All the substances are mixed with hands.



It is mixed properly until it makes a soft dough.

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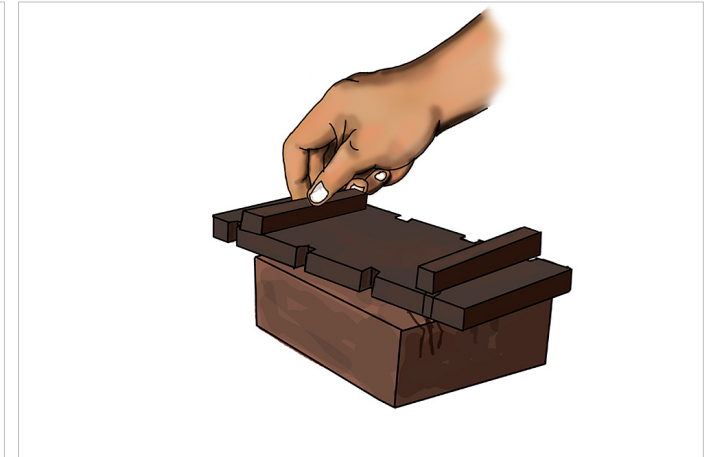
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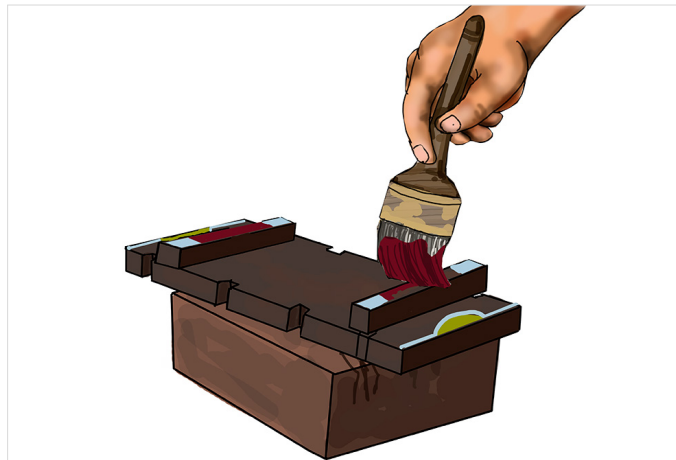
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Using a hacksaw, the wooden board is cut down into the required shape.



Wooden borders being added over the board.



The wooden board is painted using acrylic paints.



The adhesive is applied on the wooden board according to the design.



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A piece of dough is taken to create mural art.



The dough is rolled out using hands until it obtains the required shape.



Shaped dough is placed on the wooden board where adhesive is applied.



The dough is shaped according to the design and placed on the wooden board.

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Fixing the face and ear portion of Lord Ganesha.



Impressions over the body parts are made using a knife.



Face impressions are made using a brush.



Using a white acrylic colour, borders are drawn.



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Contrast colours are added to the body and the bottom portion.



The details are given to the art using contrast colours.



Additional designs are drawn on the board using acrylic paint.



Facial details are drawn using a rigger brush.



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Using a white acrylic color, borders are drawn.



Dotted lines being made around the mural art.



A glimpse of the final product.



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## Products

Mural Arts creates amazing artworks suitable for any environment. These products are regarded highly for their quality, finishing, and characteristics like weightlessness and durability. The cost of Mural arts varies according to the product size and designs, starting from INR 1000 and going up to INR 15,000. Here the size often ranges between 4x4 ft. to 9x6 ft.



Mural Art depicting Buddha and nature.



Buddha's mural art with a beautiful combination of contrast colours.



A key holder with mural art of Lord Ganesha.



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Mural Art with inspiration from Warli painting.



Seasonal variations in nature are represented with mural art.



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## Video



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## Contact Details

This documentation was done by Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Srikanth Bellamkonda at [NID, Bengaluru](#).

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

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