



FEATURED MEMBER

Himalayan Weavers

Handloom Weaving | Natural Dyeing
Rajpur, Uttarakhand

Mr. Ghayur and Ms. Patricia Alam started Himalayan Weavers in 2005 with the objective of using locally available skill to produce high quality handloom products, popularize the use of environmentally friendly natural dyes and provide a market for craft products made in the Himalayan region, thereby generating income for the people living in the area.

All of Himalayan Weavers' products are made using only natural fibers and natural dyes, including madder, tesu, indigo, pomegranate, harada, henna and lac. They have devised a new effective technology to conserve water and energy in the dyeing process. They have created insulated dye-baths with a temperature control system that allows use of the same dye bath (which requires recharging) for up to one year, thereby conserving and up cycling water as well as dye material. Use of solar panels ensures green electricity generation.

Their products include hand-spun stoles, scarfs and shawls which are available in bright shades made using natural dyes. In addition to sheep wool products, Himalayan Weavers also make hand spun and hand woven pashmina shawls.



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Kayef Stitching Project

Hand Quilting

Pushkar, Rajasthan

Kayef Stitching Project, founded by Ms. Fiona Wright, is dedicated to creating fine textile products with a focus on hand stitching. Their workshop is based in Pushkar, Rajasthan.

Kayef up cycles old saree by using them as fabrics. These fabrics are then cut into patterns which are assembled by stitching them together on paddle operated stitching machines. Sometimes multiple layers of fabrics are stitched together. The stitched garment is then adorned with running stitches, which is traditionally used for hand quilting in Rajasthan. Their work is based on design aesthetics, market demand, and artisan's skills. Finish is integral to their products and that is why they use machine threads, zippers and buttons of international standards, as trims and accessories.

They make a wide range of quilts, bags, table linen and garments including coats, jackets etc. They accept orders for bespoke hand embroidered pieces too.





MARKET WATCH

Go for the metallic look this season. Be responsible yet trendy. Go for handloom brocades from Mubarakpur Weaves. We are accepting pre-orders! **Write to marketing@aiacaonline.org.**

Events and Activities



Craftmark Jury was organized on 29th June, 2018 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, where members were invited to present their product samples and discuss business challenges. The members were assessed and evaluated by a panel of senior industry experts including Hitesh Rawat (Textile Designer, New Delhi), Kalyani Kunche (Design Head, Triburg, Gurgaon), Purnima Rai (Member, Delhi Crafts Council, New Delhi), Subhadra Banda (Head of Business Development, Partnerships & Policy, Etsy, India)



The members received valuable feedback on design development, emerging market trends, business opportunities, international business and potential markets to tap. Based on the recommendations, Craftmark shall conduct workshops and implement capacity building strategies such that the members become capable of scaling up their business.

The jury was attended by Craftmark Members - Umang, Baragaon Weaves, Handweave India, Sewa International Kutch, Leeway Handikraft, Asha Ram, Bagru Hand Block Print and Bramhani Mahila Sewa Trust.



Going Green



Ek Katha, founded in the year 2016, is a brain child of designer Madhumita Nath. It was setup with the objective of working on sustainable textiles and engaging with the craftsmen of Kutch, Gujarat. Ek Katha ensures the use of natural raw materials, environment friendly methods of production and use of locally available resources.

Ek Katha brings farm to fashion in the form of textiles as well as ready-to-wear garments that are completely handmade. They source Kala cotton from local farmers, get it spun and hand woven by the local weavers into fine cotton fabrics. These textiles are later hand printed using a hand block wax resist technique called batik. Ek Katha sells a wide range of cotton stoles, dupattas and garments across India through various stores, and also participates in pop-up events throughout the country.

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