



“बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ”

JAYOTI VIDYAPEETH WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

(Format for Preparing E Notes)

Faculty of Education and Methodology

Faculty Name- **JV'n Ritu Sharma Assistant Professor**

Program- Msc Textile

Course Name - Embellishment techniques and Textile Manipulation

Session No. & Name – Phulakari of Punjab

Phulakari of Punjab

Introduction

The Punjabi phrase Phulkari means "flower work" or "floral work." It is derived from the words "Phul" and "Kari," which mean "flower" and "work," respectively. Punjabi ladies invented the Phulkari needlework in the fifteenth century. It is often referred to as Punjabi folk embroidery and is a rural handicraft embroidery tradition. Although the word "phulkari" refers to floral work, the designs in this needlework encompassed a variety of themes as well as geometric patterns and shapes in addition to flowers. Overall, the Phulkari needlework is incredibly vivid and lively, adding color to people's life. Globally, Phulkari embroidery is highly well-liked. It honors womanhood and was created by women. Regarding Phulkari's origins, various ideas exist. Although Phulkari needlework was thought to be common throughout the nation, it was only found in Punjab. There is also the belief that the Phulkari needlework originated in Iran. There, it was called Gulkari, which is another word for flower design. However, it was observed that there

are differences and similarities between the Phulkari and Gulkari needlework styles. Some claim that this needlework was introduced to India by the Jat tribes, who immigrated and settled in Punjab, Gujarat, and Haryana. Conversely, the term "Phulkari" was first used in Punjabi literature in the 18th century.

Real flowers were used in Phulkaris traditionally, while silk and mulmul materials were chosen for their longevity and purity. It was also held that a woman's morals, righteousness, attributes, and character determined how she was fashioned to be a Phulkari. The women used to embroider the Phulkaris for their own use and the usage of other family members. Punjabi ladies used to wear these Phulkaris to weddings, festivals, festivities, and other special occasions; they were not for sale. Women used Phulkari embroidery as a home craft to express their creativity and provide color to their everyday lives. This folk art allowed them total creative freedom.

Motif use for phulkari embroidery

The Phulkari not only includes flowers but also consists of various motifs and geometrical designs, shapes, and patterns. The Phulkari embroidery is done with the use of a darn stitch on the wrong side of coarse cotton cloth known as 'khaddar' with colored silken thread. This is the main characteristic of this type of embroidery.

Use of color in phulkari embroidery

The use of colors was a very important part of the Phulkari. Traditionally, only four colors of khaddar fabrics were used and each color had its significance. The white color was used for old women and widows, the red color was used by young girls and brides-to-be and the blue and black colors were for daily use. Other than this, the red color in phulkari embroidery is very common and it represents youth and excitement. The orange color represents energy and the white color symbolizes purity. The green color epitomizes fertility and the blue color symbolizes tranquility.

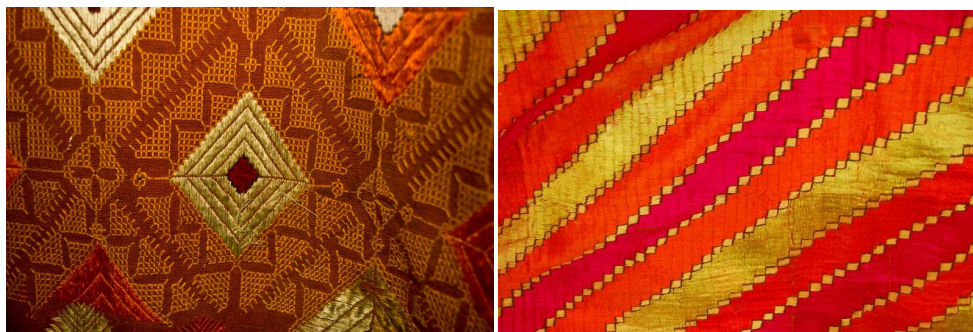
Motifs in Phulkari Embroidery

The motifs were thread by thread created in a geometric grid and the motifs in Phulkaris were evenly distributed with fine borders embroidered. The long and short darn stitches were used to

create horizontal, vertical, and diagonal thread work. The coarse khaddar fabric was woven in widths and the fabric was stitched lengthwise to make the wanted width. The khaddar cloth was thick and coarse and so, to get the delicate silk floss through and forth was an important task. They were very prone to knots and tangles and because of this; the embroidery had to be done very carefully with focus and dedication. The thread used in this embroidery is called 'pat' In Punjabi and this floss silk yarn is glossy and gives the embroidery and the whole work a polish. The only tools that are used in this Phulkari embroidery are an embroidery frame and needles.

As the Phulkari embroidery consists of symmetrical designs, the person doing the embroidery has to count the number of stitches on each side and then proceed with the design. Hence, this whole traditional process of making a Phulkari is very long and tedious and it requires a great amount of effort and time. With time, people have moved on to different techniques and different fabrics like chiffon, georgette, silk, and regular cotton to make their Phulkaris.

The motifs that the women used in their embroidery were taken from anything. They were anything from their imagination, their surroundings, their environment, nature, gardens, or just a mother and a daughter talking. Using these motifs, women expressed their emotions and their creativity. Some common motifs used in the Phulkari embroidery are belan (rolling pin), kakri (cucumber), chandrama (moon), and Satranga (7 colors). Other commonly used motifs in this embroidery were taken from immediate surroundings and environment like animals, flowers, trees, birds, etc.



Bagh Phulkari



Chope

Different Types of Phulkari

There are many types of Phulkari Embroideries present in India:

1. Thirma: unique trait of Thirma is its white khaddar. Usually worn by elder women and widows. It is a symbol of purity.
2. Darshan Dwar: This type of Phulkari is made as an offering to thank god. It is made to give to the Gurudwaras after a wish is fulfilled. Darshan Dwar translates to “the gate to see God”.
3. Bawan Bagh: Bawan meaning “fifty-two”, this type of Phulkari refers to the 52 different patterns that are made on this phulkari. This phulkari is very rare.
4. Vari-da-bagh: This is given as a gift to the bride by her in-laws when she enters her new home. A distinctive feature is that it is always made on orange-reddish khaddar fabric and only a single golden or orange-colored pat is used for embroidery. The chief pattern of this phulkari is a group of three or four small concentric diamonds of growing size.
5. Chope: This Phulkari embroidery is made by the bride’s maternal grandmother (naani) when the bride was born. The Holbein stitch is used in the chope phulkari and so, both the sides of the phulkari contain the same design. Chope is used to wrap the bride after her ritual bath on her wedding day. The chope is embroidered with one color and it is monochrome.

6. Surajmukhi: The main pattern of this type of Phulkari is a sunflower.
7. Panchranga Bagh: Panchranga means 'five colors' and so, this type of phulkari is decorated with chevrons of five different colors.
8. Satranga Bagh: Satranga means 'seven colors' and so, this bagh is embroidered using seven colors.
9. Meenakari Bagh: this bagh is usually made with gold and white-colored pat and it is decorated with small multicolored diamonds.
10. Sainchi: This type of phulkari depicts and narrates the village life of Punjab. This phulkari was done in very few areas like Firozpur and Bhatinda. The motifs were local animals, birds, farmers, wrestlers, weavers, trains, circuses, etc.