

MODULE 4: FLOOR PAINTING

- 5. Rangoli**
- 6. Alpana**
- 7. Kolam (Kalam in Kerala)**
- 8. Mandana**



5

RANGOLI

MODULE – 4

Floor Painting



Notes

Dear learner, in the previous lesson you have learnt about the Pithora art. In this lesson, you will learn about the Rangoli folk art. Rangoli is an ancient art form of Maharashtra that is famous for centuries. The meaning of the term Rangoli is row of colours. The art of Rangoli making is unique handwork generally followed by the Indian tradition. Rangoli is drawn on the floor by women and girls by using their fingers. Every community has their way of making Rangoli design. Some are bright and colourful, while some are simple and elegant. Rangoli is drawn for all traditional rituals and ceremonies as it holds an important position in Indian families. It is used as a symbol of religious and cultural belief. It is commonly known as an important part of the spiritual process of purification of the spirit and prosperity. The holy festivals and family occasions inspire the art of making Rangoli. Women may make Rangoli at the entrance of every room of the house and courtyards. It is a basic symbol of spirit which does not end ever. Rangoli is usually created with **icons**, such as the Swastika, lotus flower, Lakshmi's footstep (Pegalie) etc. They are considered as a sign of prosperity. Many families make Rangoli every morning in Maharashtra. Rangoli **symbolizes** joy and happiness in their day to day life.



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain Rangoli as an art form;
- describe the background and importance of Rangoli;
- identify the different names of floor painting in different regions of India;
- classify the media and materials used in Rangoli;
- identify different motifs connected with **religious rituals** and **rites**.



Notes

5.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Rangoli is not just a medium of decoration, but it reduces negative energy and adds positivity to the place where it is drawn. The Rangoli making is a way to pass on the ancient symbols through the ages, from one generation to the next, thus keeping both the art form and tradition alive. Rangoli art is a type of decoration on the floor in Maharashtra. Floral decoration and painting have different names in different part/provinces of India. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, it is called Chawk Purna, Mandana in Rajasthan, Aripaan in Bihar, Alpana in Bengal, Rangavallie in Karnataka, Kolam in Tamil Nadu, Muggu in Andhara Pradesh, Alikhthap, and Kalam in Kerala and Satthiyao in Gujarat.

5.2 TRADITIONAL MOTIFS AND SYMBOLS

Learner, you should learn the major forms and **symbols** first, which are used in making Rangoli. The major symbols are the lotus flower, leaves, mango, vase, fish, and different kind of birds, parrot, swan, peacock, human figures and foliage. Freehand Rangoli image is created directly on the ground. The material used to create Rangoli is easily available everywhere. Therefore, this art is not connected to rich or poor but is **prevalent** in all homes. Usually the major **ingredients** used to make Rangoli are paste rice solution, a dried powder made from the leaves' colour, charcoal, burned soil, wood sawdust etc., These are used primarily dry or wet with granulated rice or dry flour. It can also add Sindoor (vermilion), Haldi (turmeric), and other natural colours. Chemical colours are a modern variation. Other materials include sand and even flowers and petals, as in case of Flower Rangolis.

1. **Peacock :** It is the most colourful bird which attracts the attention of artists. It is a symbol of beauty and rhythm.
2. **Geometrical shapes:** All designs and forms are based on geometry. Triangle squares and circles are also a symbolic representation of spiritual power.
3. **Lotus:** It is not only the most balanced example of a form, also symbolises purity and perfection in Hindu iconography.
4. **Pot or vessel :** Pots are used as a motif to symbolise prosperity. Lakshmi Devi holds a pot filled with gold coins in her iconographic presentations.
5. **Parrot:** This bird symbolises of love, which is often used in Indian sculpture.
6. **Lamp:** This motif has prolific use in Indian art. The lamp presents the symbol of knowledge, enlightenment and love. It brings positive energy to the household.
7. **Leaves:** Leaves are used so diversely that artists can create many designs out of them. Leaves are also the symbol of youth, longevity and freshness, growth and fertility.

8. **Mango:** The fruit is one of the most delicious fruits in the world. It comes in beautiful shapes and various shades of green, yellow and red. The mango motif is a favourite design for Indian artists and symbolises love and wealth.

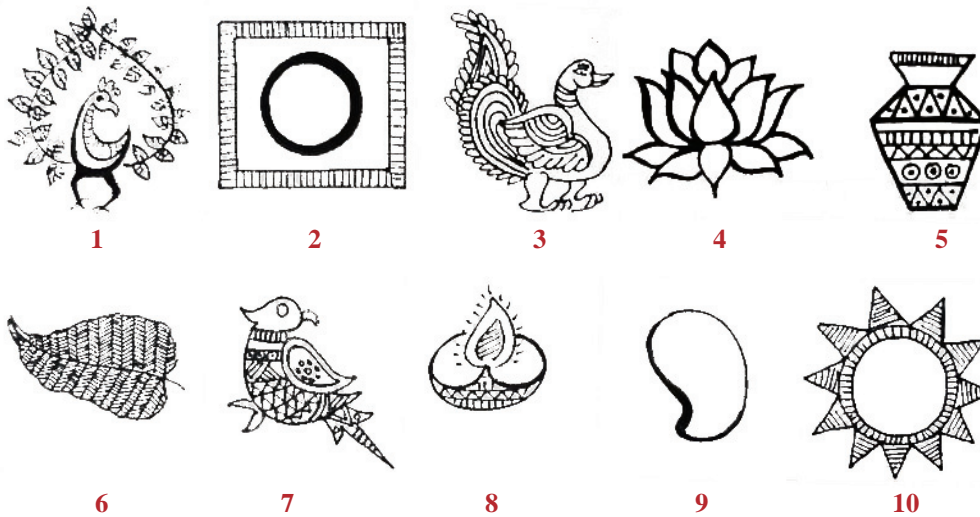


Fig. 5.1

9. **Swan:** Swan is the vehicle of Devi Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge. The beautiful rhythmic shape of the swan is often used in painting by Indian artists. The motif is also used in Rangoli for the same reason.
10. **Sun:** The circular motif of the Sun is used in Rangoli. It is presented in the form of a circle with rays in straight lines all around the circle. The Sun is the life source of our Earth and is often worshipped as a god.

Learner, you may try to copy the motifs and basic designs which are used to prepare the Rangoli design.

5.3 MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR RANGOLI

- A drawing board or hand board
- Drawing paper (for designing the Rangoli and different motifs)
- Drawing pin
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Colour (Earth colour such as burnt sienna (Geru) yellow ochre (Pili mati) white etc.
- Colour Paper/ handmade paper
- Colour mixing bowl
- Colour flowers, pastels and leaves



Notes



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5.4 TRADITIONAL METHODS

Now, let us learn the traditional methods of Rangoli art. Rangoli is made in two ways Dry and Wet. For making the Rangoli design, the floor is cleaned first by using wet clothes or by cow dung or clay. This is called Liype or Leepana. Then some dots are drawn according to the design on the floor. After putting the dots join them according to the design. After creating the desired form created by joining the dots, the space is filled with different colours or pastels, resulting in a beautiful Rangoli.

- (i) Fill the specific part of the design with dry wheat yellow powder (wheat powder with yellow colour as shown in picture no 3).
- (ii) To beautify the yellow colour add orange and red colour for smooth tonal effect as shown in the picture no 4.
- (iii) After filling all the parts of the design with different shades and colours as shown in picture no. 5 a wonderful Rangoli will be obtained.
- (iv) To complete and finalize this design we draw the final outline with wheat or rice powder.
- (v) To give importance to some part of the design, add glitters in that specific part of Rangoli to give a shining effect from distance as shown in the picture no 6.
- (vi) Finally, the beautiful and auspicious Rangoli is complete.

Rangoli can be created by one or a group of ladies working together. It helps to bind the family community into one unit by creating love compassion and compatibility while creating beautiful auspicious Rangolis.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 1

So dear learner, you have learnt the traditional methods of Rangoli painting. Now we will illustrate a design of the Rangoli border.

Step 1: Draw two parallel lines. Put a circle in the middle. Draw five-petal shapes around it. Draw two spiral motifs on the two sides of the centrepiece.



Fig. 5.2

Step 2: Colour these shapes.

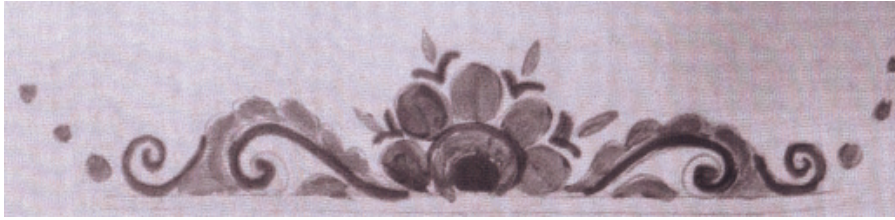


Fig. 5.3

Step 3: Draw the outline with black to make each motif clear.



Fig. 5.4

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 2

This is another exercise of Rangoli design. The theme is Rangoli with Geometrical Shapes.

Step 1: Draw a square with two lines with a circle in the middle. Put in a diamond shape, and draw two horizontal and two vertical lines intersecting. Connect the lines in the four corners to give four triangular shapes. Draw four lines on each side of the square.

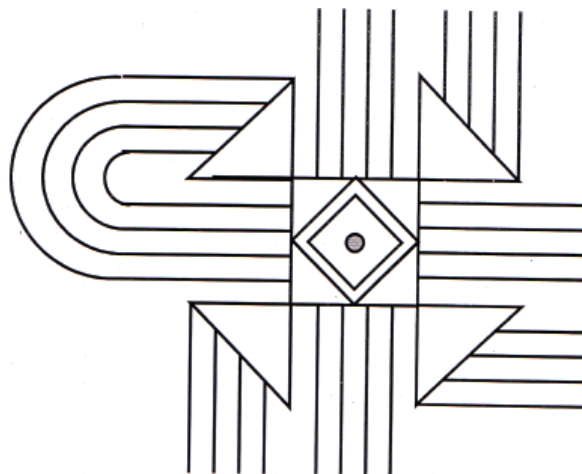


Fig. 5.5

Step 2: Draw U shape on each line and connect it with the triangle. Repeat the same for all the triangles.



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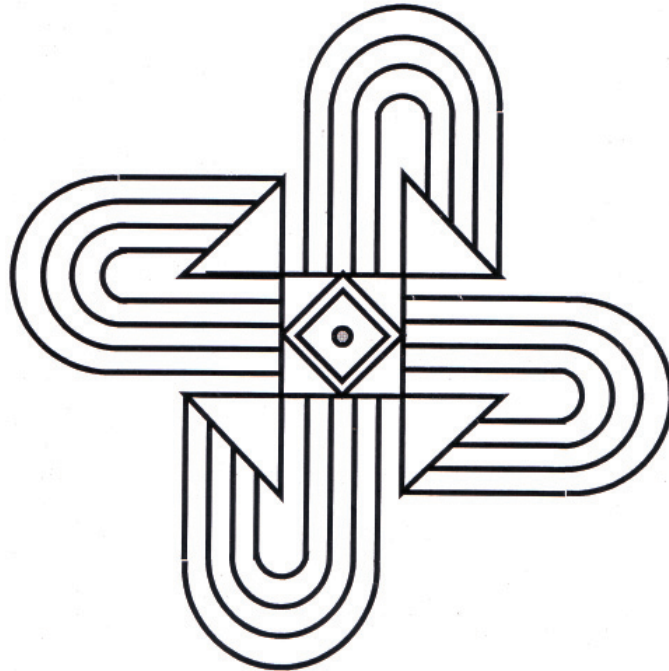


Fig. 5.6

Step 3: Draw lotus motifs at the four corners, and draw small circles on every corner of the triangles.



Fig. 5.7

Step 4: Use colours, as shown in the figure and complete the design.

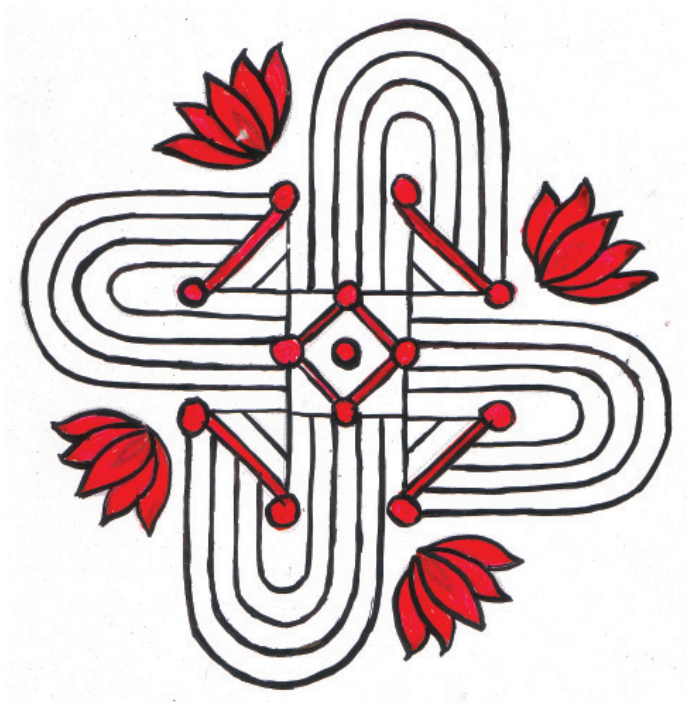


Fig. 5.8



Notes

PRACTICAL EXERCISE 3

Now let us draw one more Rangoli painting. The theme is Rangoli with Dots.

Step 1: Draw an imaginary square with 36 dots to make imaginary square boxes. It is preferable to use freehand, but you can take the help of scale if necessary.

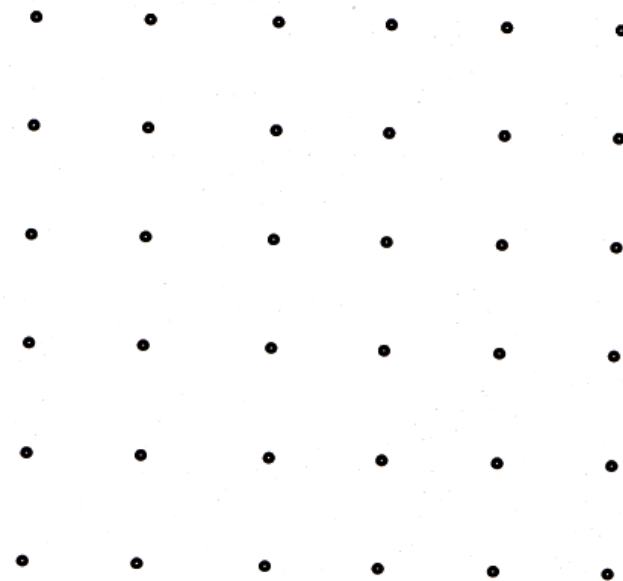


Fig. 5.9



Notes

Step 2: Join the three diagonal dots in the corner with a line. Connect the middle dot with the other three dots with lines. Repeat the same in the other corners. Draw a square in the middle of the four dots and draw four heart shaped petal motifs on four sides of the square. Put a circle in the middle of the square.

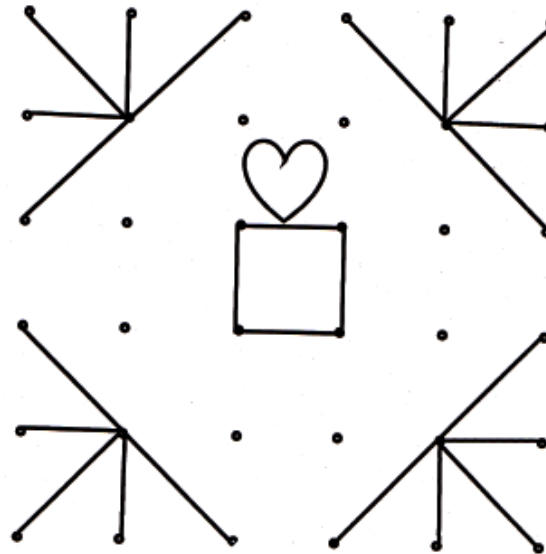


Fig. 5.10

Step 3: Draw a half-circle to connect all the five dots in each corner to create a design. Draw four leaf motifs from the middle dot in the four petal motifs. Repeat the same in the other corners.

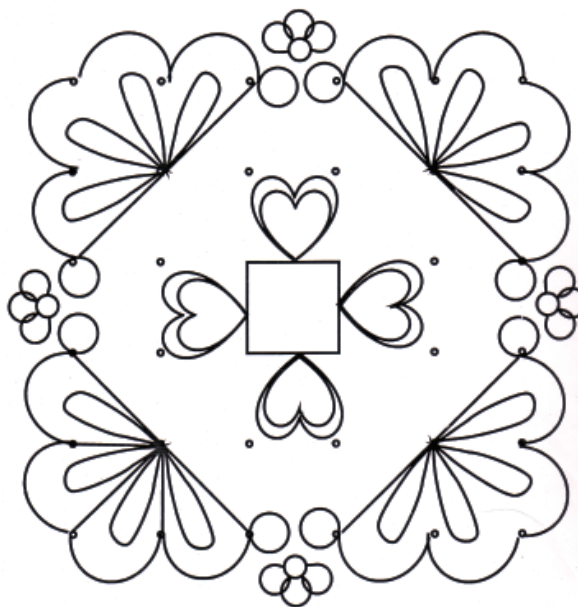


Fig. 5.11

Step 4: Use colours of your choice to embellish the Rangoli. You can use outlines and coloured dots to add to the beauty of the design.



Fig. 5.12

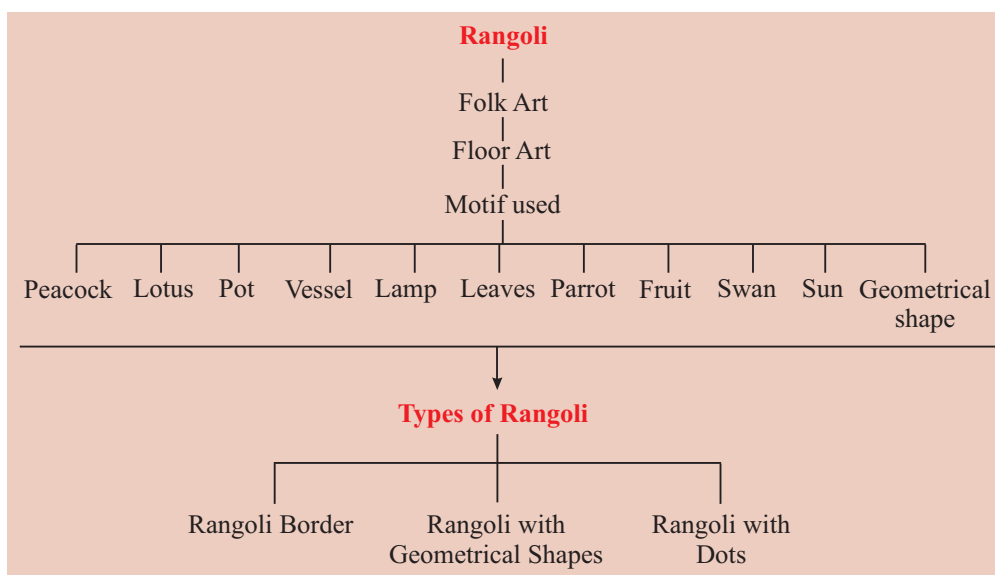
After filling all the parts of the designs with different shades and colours, we will draw the final outline to complete and finalise the design. Finally, a beautiful and auspicious Rangoli is complete (Try to avoid coloured sketch pens).



Notes



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT





TERMINAL EXERCISE



Notes

1. Identify the different names of Rangoli in different states and draw their motifs.
2. Draw and paint the motif used on the occasion of Laxmi Puja.
3. Draw and paint a decorative Rangoli at the doorstep.
4. Draw and paint a decorative Rangoli with the help of lines.
5. Draw and paint a decorative Rangoli on the floor in traditional style, and submit its the photograph.
6. Support the residents nearby you to create or paint Rangoli outside their houses.

GLOSSARY

Icons	-	a painting of a holy person
Symbolizes	-	represent something by means of symbol
Religious	-	concerned with or believing in a religion
Rituals	-	a ceremony that involves a series of actions performed in a set order
Rites	-	the religious ceremony, other solemn procedure
Symbols	-	mark or character used as a representation of something
Prevalent	-	common, widespread
Ingredients	-	component, part or element
Granulate	-	in the form of granules
Deity	-	God and Goddess
Elaborate	-	develop something in more details
Pastels	-	soft coloured chalk or crayon used for making Rangoli
Petal	-	each of the segments forming the outer part of a flower