

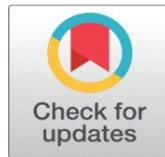
EXPLORING HAND-PAINTED KALAMKARI FOR THE GENERATION OF UNIQUE PATTERNS

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ABSTRACT

Kalamkari, a traditional Indian art form has fascinated art enthusiasts and culture vultures for centuries with its beautiful hand-painted designs and deep cultural roots. Clothing, household goods even lifestyle items are adorned with hand-painted Kalamkari, also known as Srikalahasti Kalamkari. Whenever someone mentions Kalamkari clothes, dupattas, kurtas, or sarees are the first things that spring to mind. Young minds have a particular vision of it. Aside from the fact that Kalamkari is a costly textile technique, there needs to be more diversity in the apparel that can be purchased for everyday use. The research starts giving a history of Kalamkari art, charting its beginnings and development. It draws attention to the extraordinary qualities that make Kalamkari unique, such as its reliance on natural dyes, narrative storytelling and incorporation of cultural symbols. In a series of tests and case studies, we compare artificially created patterns to genuine Kalamkari artwork. This study aimed to provide a design solution that suited the preferences and budgets of younger consumers. This study also includes essential information on the possible uses of generative art to revive and maintain traditional crafts and cultural treasures. In conclusion, the research is a tribute for Kalamkari art's ongoing history and its adaptation in the digital era.

Keywords: Kalamkari, Art, Textile, Pattern, Traditional and Hand Painted



1. INTRODUCTION

Textiles are frequently tradition art and cultural history, where can find their most elegant representations. Hand-painted Kalamkari stands out as a genuine masterpiece of artistry [1]. With its elaborate shapes, vivid colors and deep narrative this ancient Indian art form has captured hearts and minds for centuries despite lost in the mists of time. The textile art known as Kalamkari or "pen work" is more than beautiful; it was a profound cultural statement that has developed over many years [2]. The Indian subcontinent where Hand-Painted Kalamkari has thrived for millennia where it has its origins. It has a type of art that has not

withstood the test of time but has also persisted in evolving, adapting, and inspiring people of all ages [3]. Within its folds, this textile art conceals a story that spans centuries, depicting the rise and fall of empires the impact of other civilizations and the steadfast dedication of artists to preserve their Culture. Hand-painted Kalamkari is a celebration of tradition [4]. It represented the knowledge and abilities of individuals who has committed to learning this profession and had been handed down through the years from master to pupil. It proved the power of human inventiveness, endurance, and accuracy [5].

Hand-painted Kalamkari was unique due to its ingrained ties to spirituality and the environment. Traditional Kalamkari themes frequently feature symbols and meanings derived from the natural world, such as birds, animals, leaves, and flowers [6]. Kalamkari tells tales of mythology, folklore, and religious importance in addition to being beautiful. It was a language of patterns and hues with each artist's brushstroke expressing a thought, a moment in time, or an emotion. Hand-painted Kalamkari has seen a resurgence recently [7]. This age-old skill has discovered a new market as the world focused on ecological and artisanal techniques. Pushing the limits of tradition while honoring its sacredness, artisans and designers were investigating the potential of hand-painted Kalamkari [8].

Hand-painted Kalamkari was making a comeback which was not only in India. Its impact has crossed international boundaries, inspiring designers and artists everywhere. An art form that stresses authenticity, artistry and the tales behind each piece, Kalamkari provided a refreshing alternative in a world characterized by mass manufacturing and throwaway fashion [9]. The subtleties of this extraordinary skill was explored on this voyage into the realm of hand-painted Kalamkari. It was examined the methods, supplies and sources that give Kalamkari's distinctive patterns their distinctive character [10]. It would honor the artists who had devoted their entire lives to upholding this legacy while also recognizing how Kalamkari has reimagined in the context of contemporary fashion and design. We explored the world of hand-painted Kalamkari as we set off on this journey, where innovation and tradition live together [11]. Every design has a tale to tell and each brushstroke has evidence of the creative spirit's eternal power. Come along as we explored hand-painted Kalamkari's wonder, past and limitless potential [12].

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Europeans refer to India's southeast coast as the Coromandel Coast, which has been a thriving center for trading Kalamkari goods. Masulipatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, which functioned as the core of Kalamkari artistry was one of this industry's most significant commercial hubs; it was known as Machilipatnam. In this story, it was rising from humble beginnings to international prominence was remarkable. The folkloric tapestry known as Kalamkari has undergone significant changes throughout its existence [13]. It flourished as a craft with religious overtones, but the monarchs changed in its nature. It changed into a more secular form while being ruled by Muslims, adjusting to various influences and patronage.

The Mughals had a strong preference for the craft, particularly in the regions of Coromandel and Golconda. As a result, two unique Kalamkari styles, the printed and the painted styles, emerged. Under Golconda's influence, Kalamkari in Masulipatnam adopted Persian characteristics and became famous for its printed patterns [14]. Under Hindu patronage, Srikalahasti developed a distinctive style typified by exquisite hand-painted images, frequently used to embellish temple fabrics commemorating Hindu mythology. The concentration on figurative themes, a tradition that emerged in the 17th century and maintained until the contemporary

day, was a distinctive feature of the craft performed in Srikalahasti [15]. This fashion demanded the use of a "kalam" or pen, and it distinguished itself from other textile customs with its minimum dependence on repeated block patterns.

The development of the European cotton industry in the 18th century was a turning point for Kalamkari Chintz. Traditional Kalamkari artistry was threatened by European manufacturers, which also led to the loss of essential trade secrets and forced many artisans into poverty [16]. Concurrently, the market for South Indian textiles was further decreased by the growth of the batik industry in Indonesia in the 19th century. The few chances for export to Persia and local demand for story clothes for temples and landlords remained. In Kalahasti, the manufacturing of Kalamkari fell as the 20th century got underway [17]. Craft patronage decreased due to a drop in temple patronage and the loss of local landlords' income and power. After realizing the need to preserve this historic industry, All India Handicrafts Board developed a training facility in 1958, utilizing the knowledge of the few remaining artists.

The original name of Kalamkari was "Vartapani," but through time, Kalamkari became the more used term. Midway through the 20th century, the craft underwent a crucial turning point when Ms. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay set out to track down Kalamkari experts who had not worked on their skill in over four decades. The Srikalahasti hangings were no longer utilized for ceremonies. A government-established training facility was crucial to preserve the craft's skills and free it from its religious setting [18]. This allowed the art to explore narrative material outside conventional didactic topics. The history of Kalamkari was the evidence of its tenacity and adaptability. It has survived shifting governments, economic upheavals and changing tastes to become a beloved art form that has endured the test of time and continues to enthrall with its elaborate designs and rich cultural legacy. Figure 1 depicts the kalamkari design.

Figure 1

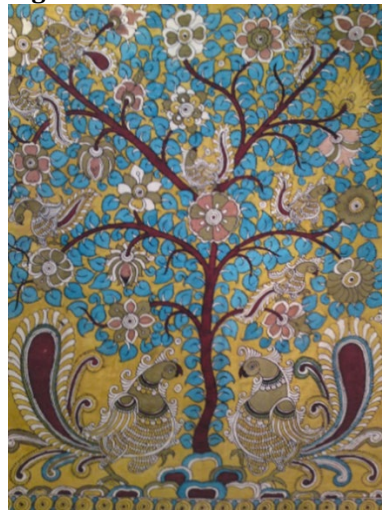


Figure 1 Historical Kalamkari design

Source <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/322148179576500454/>

3. THE PROCEDURE

The method of making the painted textiles of Srikalahasti, which are firmly entrenched in indigenous skills and ecological textile traditions, was a witness to their distinctive and authentic character. This method, which entails careful

processes, emphasizes the organic and sustainable core of the art. Figure 2 depicts the procedure of Kalamkari painting.

Figure 2

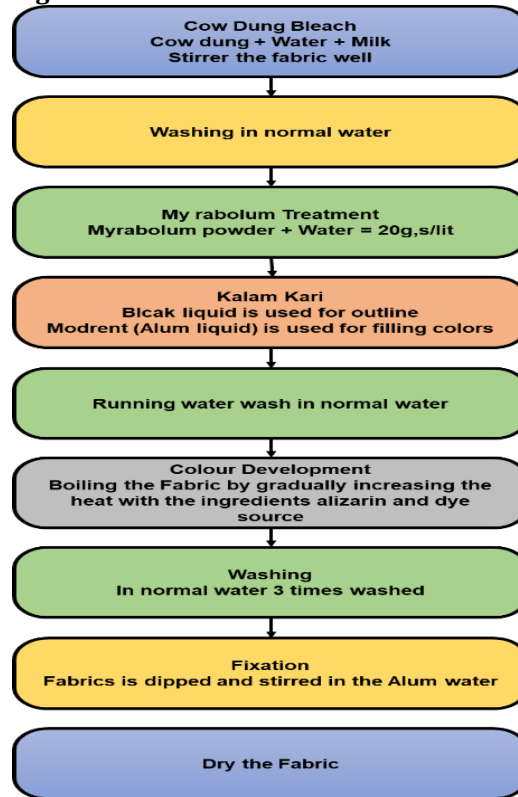


Figure 2 Flow chart of kalamkari procedure

Source <https://www.utsavpedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Process-flow-of-making-Kalamkari1.png>

3.1. SELECTION OF INDIGENOUS MATERIALS

The precise selection of local resources that the artists use to create Srikalahasti painted linens demonstrates their dedication to sustainability and tradition. They purposefully select organic materials, such as regionally grown cotton cloth, that act as the canvas for their beautiful paintings [19]. This thoughtful material choice guarantees of a healthy relationship with the environment, Culture and embodies a sustainable mindset. These craftsmen make work that connected with the authenticity and organic essence of their trade while reducing their environmental impact by utilizing materials that are easily accessible in their area.

3.2. PREPARATION OF NATURAL DYES

Natural colors derived from minerals and plant ingredients like indigo, madder, and turmeric are integral to the craft's essence. These organic materials are gathered by artisans, who use age-old methods to extract brilliant, environmentally friendly colors from them [20]. The craft's dedication to sustainability has shown by this crucial stage, which forgoes synthetic chemicals in favor of traditional, eco-friendly methods. This craft has an excellent example of eco-aware creativity since artisans use the vibrant colors found in nature to produce stunning artwork while also exhibiting a deep regard for the environment.

3.3. HAND-PAINTING WITH INDIGENOUS TOOLS

True craftsmanship has revealed in the making of Srikalahasti-painted textiles, as talented artisans combined traditional methods and locally available equipment to bring their creations to life. These craftsmen rely on handcrafted wooden tools and brushes manufactured locally, demonstrating their close ties to the environment and dedication to sustainability [21]. Each brushstroke they use to paint beautiful motifs and storylines into the cloth canvas delicately narrated a tradition or cultural story.

3.4. NATURAL DYE FIXATION AND FINISHING

The fabric goes through a natural dye-fixing process when the artwork is finished. To make sure that the vivid colors stay on the cloth, artisans utilize methods like sun-drying or soaking in natural fixatives [22]. For the artwork to last a long time, this stage is essential. The resulting fabric is expertly polished and ready for various uses, including clothing or wall hangings.

4. THE INSTRUMENT KALAM

The "kalam" is a flexible and conventional instrument used in crafts that rely on complex fabric painting processes and natural dyes. It consists of a bamboo stick with a neatly pointed end and a thicker one for a secure grasp. The center is secured with a wrapped ball of wool or jute yarn fastened with twine crossed over itself [23]. The natural dye is stored inside of this center ball. To ensure the absorbent fleece takes up the color, the artisan dips the pointed end of the Kalam into the dye pot. The artist paints the cloth under the intended pattern with control and accuracy, creating exquisitely intricate motifs. Figure 3 depicts the tools of Kalamkari hand painting.

Figure 3



Figure 3 Kalamkari painting tool

Source

https://www.dsource.in/sites/default/files/styles/mini_responsivecustom_user_moblie_1x/public/resource/kalamkari-painting/introduction/minigallery/7369/03.jpg?itok=D3XBvhOi×tamp=1441196388Tt

5. THE ENCHANTMENT OF HAND-PAINTING IN KALAMKARI

This ancient Indian art form's enchanting universe is explored in the book, *The Enchantment of Hand-Painting in Kalamkari*. Master artisans are essential to

maintaining tradition and cultural history in this beautiful skill. They create natural dyes from organic sources, producing a brilliant array of hues. Precision and attention to detail that what make Kalamkari art so distinctive, skilled artist's hand-paint complex patterns and storylines. Figure 4 depicts the hand painting in Kalamkari.

Figure 4



Figure 4 Hand painting in Kalamkari

Source <https://in.pinterest.com/pin/exquisitely-hand-painted-kalamkari-peacock-wall-plate-painting--145663369209087141/>

5.1. MASTER CRAFTSMEN: GUARDIANS OF TRADITION IN KALAMKARI PAINTING

The unrivaled skill of master artisans who act as the unshakable stewards of tradition sits at the core of Kalamkari painting. This delicate art style has endured through the ages. These highly trained people, who frequently began polishing their trade early, are more than just paintings; they are the physical representation of cultural legacy. As they continue to practice the Kalamkari art handed down through the years, their hands serve as a bridge between the past and the present. Every brushstroke they use has a historical resonance and every pattern they produce contains a tale that spans eras.

5.2. HARNESSING NATURE'S PALETTE: PREPARING NATURAL DYES

The striking and timeless hues that distinguish Kalamkari painting are not produced by synthetic pigments but a tasteful blending of natural elements. The careful and time-honored method of making these natural dyes highlights Kalamkari's eco-friendly and sustainable spirit. The technique of locating and processing raw materials, such as plant extracts, minerals, and even an organic waste, to produce a pallet of colors that give Kalamkari art life will be covered in this part. We will reveal the mysteries of the stunning and enduring colors that embellish Kalamkari fabrics and artworks, starting with the extraction of colors and continuing with the meticulous mixing and setting of dyes.

5.3. THE ARTISTRY OF PRECISION AND DETAIL

The charm of Kalamkari is found in its complex patterns as well as in its vivid colors. The incredible artistry of Kalamkari artists will be explored in this part, where each line, curve, and print has a more profound significance. These artists produce breathtaking creations that frequently reflect legendary tales, historical events, or marvels of nature via deft hands and a knowledge of design principles. We will examine the careful methods including the expert use of the "kalam," a particular pen used for outlining and the skill of hand-painting, which necessitates unyielding attention to detail. This investigation will show how much perseverance and commitment it takes to produce the caliber of artistic talent that makes Kalamkari a work of visual wonder.

5.4. TIME-INTENSIVE MASTERY: THE ESSENCE OF KALAMKARI

It reaches the core of this art form the labor-intensive mastery—as we close our exploration of the allure of Kalamkari hand-painting. The art of Kalamkari is not for the hasty or impatience; instead, it symbolizes the careful devotion of the craftspeople who put their entire selves into their work. In this section, we'll dig into the intricate details of the time-consuming procedure that involves several dyeing and washing phases, each calls for close observation and its skill. We'll also look at the satisfaction and pride that Kalamkari artists have in their work, transcending the idea of simple artistry and turning it into a meditative experience that yields results of art that endure throughout time.

The enticing appeal of Kalamkari hand-painting is a world where tradition and creativity coexist, nature's gifts are translated into vivid hues, accuracy, and detail create storylines, and labor-intensive proficiency turns a craft into an art form. These four sections take us on a mesmerizing trip into the fascinating world of Kalamkari painting, illuminating the craftspeople who protect its legacy, the organic colors that give it life, the complex creativity found in its designs and the profound devotion that gives it an ageless quality.

6. PROCESSES AND MATERIALS

This traditional craft utilizes the available equipment and uses natural colors derived from plants and minerals. The basis of this trade is coarse cotton, popularly referred to as "gada," which serves as the surface on which elaborately painted motifs are created. There are several steps to the complex procedure. The process begins by employing cow or sheep excrement and harnessing sunlight to bleach the cloth. The cloth is prepared for color application using a mixture of powdered myrobalan nuts and milk, with the myrobalan improving color acceptance and the milk preventing color from spreading or blotting. The pattern shapes are precisely traced using charcoal made from tamarind twigs. Using a Kalam, the craft's distinctive black lines are drawn, and the craft's black coloring is produced using a special dye made from fermented scraps of rusty iron, sugarcane, and palm jaggery. A two-step technique generates red hues: first, selected fabric sections are treated with an alum solution; then, the alum-treated areas are dyed red using a water-based mixture of Chay root and Suruduchekka. Myrobalan flower powder is boiled in water to produce yellow, while indigo dye is extracted to produce blue. Figure 5 depicts the Kalamkari painting's raw materials. The primary color, yellow, is covered with layers of Indigo blue to create green.

Figure 4**Figure 4** Kalamkari painting raw materials

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND TRADITION PRESERVATION

The research acknowledged the close connection between family traditions and Kalamkari, highlighting the importance of these principles to the craft's survival and development. Families have passed along the skills and knowledge over many generations, preserving traditional practices. These families relied heavily on the arts as a source of income and seasoned artists were instrumental in training the next generation.

7.2. OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH FOCUS

The study's primary goals were to examine Kalamkari's evolution and determine its market position. A combination of observational and survey approaches was used to accomplish this. The study aimed to comprehend how this ancient skill maintained its authenticity while adjusting to shifting market forces. This phase made the research goal and its emphasis on following the craft's development and market presence evident.

7.3. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Investigating the current market position of Kalamkari was the primary study goal. Due to the need for more recent information on this historic art form, an experimental approach was selected. Multiple sources were used to acquire the data, including online publications, newspapers, news websites, personal websites, and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Due to the scarcity of earlier studies in this field, the data gathered to be more structured and qualitative. According to the study, modern Kalamkari has evolved from its traditional use of hand-woven cotton to various fabrics, including georgette and silk.

8. UNIQUE PATTERN GENERATION IN KALAMKARI

The article "Unique Pattern Generation in Kalamkari" examines the heritage of Kalamkari, a complex pattern-painting style used on Indian textiles. This subject explores how unique patterns are made in the Kalamkari tradition. It highlights blending traditional and modern components, including cultural themes, creative pattern combinations and the special touches that artisans add to their work. It exemplifies how Kalamkari artisans combine age-old methods with contemporary aesthetic sensibility to create historically based and distinctly expressive designs. Figure 6 depicts the unique pattern of Kalamkari.

Figure 6



Figure 6 Unique pattern of Kalamkari

Source <https://yehaindia.com/kalamkari-a-unique-artform/>

8.1. SYNCHRONIZING TRADITION AND MODERNITY

The historical Kalamkari traditions are complemented by modern elements in this creative process. The ancient Indian art of Kalamkari has been performed for decades, with methods and legends being passed down through the generations. However, adapting and accepting modernity is crucial if you want to be exciting and relevant to today's audience. To achieve this synchronization, artisans and designers must adhere to the fundamentals of Kalamkari while introducing modern components like color schemes, design ideas, and even technical tools. The objective is to design patterns that speak to the preferences and sensitivities of the contemporary world while paying homage to the rich heritage of Kalamkari.

8.2. INFUSING CULTURAL MOTIFS

Culture and tradition come to life on the kalamkari canvas. This art form's foundation is the incorporation of cultural elements. Each motif is profoundly significant and frequently finds inspiration in mythology, nature, or everyday life. Artists pick themes that convey tales and inspire feelings in this phase by delving deeply into their cultural reservoirs. These themes comprise the core of Kalamkari designs, whether depicting deities, scenes from epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, or complex depictions of flora and wildlife.

8.3. PIONEERING PATTERN FUSION

Every art form needs innovation to survive and Kalamkari is no exception. To generate fresh and alluring patterns, daring pattern fusion entails the investigation

of several aspects, sometimes from unexpected sources. By allowing for cross-cultural influences, using unusual materials, and experimenting with new techniques, this stage enables artists to think outside the bounds of tradition. Pushing the limits of what is deemed "typical" in Kalamkari allows artists to give the art new life, drawing a larger audience and maintaining its dynamic and lively nature. Where Kalamkari develops as an art form, continuously reinventing itself while adhering to its roots and is in pattern fusion.

8.4. TAILORING FOR PERSONAL ARTISTRY

In this process, Kalamkari patterns are modified to enable individual creativity and expression. Even though Kalamkari has a long history and a variety of well-established motifs, it's essential to understand that each artist contributes their viewpoint and innovation to the art form. Customization enables artists to add their personalities and life experiences to their creations. This action allows them to provide personalized products that accommodate various consumer demands. Whether changing color schemes, experimenting with new techniques, or adjusting a classic pattern to express a particular narrative, personalizing for personal artistry guarantees that Kalamkari remains a vibrant art form that appeals to both producers and customers.

9. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study's findings show how Kalamkari in Srikalahasti has changed and grown in response to the times, adopting new methods, themes, colors, and materials to satisfy a more extensive market while keeping its historical origins.

9.1. THE USE OF KALAM AND EVOLUTION OF TECHNIQUES

The findings showed that the ancient Kalam tool has remained essential to Kalamkari practice. However, there has been a definite change in the tools and methods employed. While the old art form entailed hand painting with the Kalam and using natural dyes, modern Kalamkari practitioners use chemical dyes. This trend is mainly caused by consumers' preference for bolder colors and chemical dyes' simplicity. In addition, the conventional free-form drawing technique using charcoal twigs has developed to include tracing techniques employing perforated tracing sheets, enabling more accurate copying of patterns.

9.2. PRODUCT DIVERSITY AND MOTIF ADAPTATION

In Srikalahasti, Kalamkari was traditionally employed to decorate temple textiles with depictions of Gods and Goddesses and scenes from Hindu epics. However, as market needs changed over time, artisans adjusted, which led to product line diversification. Today, Kalamkari artisans produce many goods, including clothing, furniture and wall hangings. Figure 7 depicts the motif adaptation of the Kalamkari painting. In addition to increasing revenue prospects, this diversification has inspired craftspeople to keep up their craftwork. These items are popular in large part due to the evolution of themes. The motif directory has grown as artisans have added new motifs inspired by animals, floral patterns, and the natural world.

Figure 7



Figure 7 Kalamkari motif adaptation painting

Source https://www.memeraki.com/cdn/shop/products/tree-of-life-kalamkari-painting-by-sudheer-memerakicom-838951_887x.jpg?v=1661328699

9.3. EXPANSION OF COLOR PALETTE AND FABRIC CHOICES

In Kalamkari, color has always been a critical component. Black, red, blue, yellow, and green made up the classic color scheme for Kalamkari, although more hues are available. The list of ancestor colors has expanded with new shades, including brown, orange, grey, maroon, and pink. Similar changes have occurred in the selection of base textiles. Crepes, chiffons, georgettes, and raw silk are utilized in addition to coarse cotton, giving designer materials additional variety. Kalamkari has adapted to contemporary tastes and commercial needs because of the variations in color and fabric options.

9.4. WIDENING PRODUCT RANGE FOR MARKET SURVIVAL

The study showed that Kalamkari's commercial appeal was constrained by its traditional emphasis on religious requirements, such as temple decorations and portrayals of gods or epic tales. It was necessary to increase the product selection to protect the craft and its creators. To meet this demand, Kalamkari has expanded its product line to include wall hangings, furnishing textiles, and materials for clothing. The availability of practical possibilities has boosted product sales and given craftspeople more incentive to carry on the handmade legacy. It has also enabled Kalamkari to continue flourishing and developing as an art form in the long run.

10. MODERN TRANSITION: A SUMMARY

Under the patronage of Hindu kings, Kalamkari developed into a traditional, indigenous skill. With time, it grew along the Coromandel coast and attracted customers from outside India, such as the Moghul and European markets [24]. The importance of global trade markets contributed to the industrialization of British textile manufacturing. With the advent of printed Kalamkari, this shift also saw a difference in technique. This change and the expansion of the European cotton industry in the 18th century presented difficulties for the painted version of the

trade. As a result, the market for hand-painted cotton Kalamkaris fell, which resulted in a drop in manufacturing in Kalahasti around the turn of the 20th century.

10.1. SUSTAINING TRADITIONAL SKILLS

The All India Handicrafts Board's efforts under the direction of Smt. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay was instrumental in maintaining the art of hand-painted Kalamkaris in Srikalahasti [25]. The old skill flourished again through these initiatives, giving this passionate painting method new vitality [26]. The craft progressed its initial religious setting by embracing free narrative material.

10.2. CONTEMPORARY ORIENTATION

The craft was further tailored to the modern market's shifting demands to maintain the tradition's relevance. This change sparked interest in Kalamkari as a skill among artists and craftspeople. They started experimenting with various fabric bases, increased the number of available motifs, and added fresh hues to the conventional color scheme [27]. These changes led to an improvement in the craft approach's awareness and penetration, placing it as a potential technique for surface enrichment in an organic fashion.

10.3. ORGANIC FASHION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

Today, Kalamkari is developing as a craft with a distinct personality. It incorporates both conventional methods and cutting-edge strategies as it adjusts to the needs of organic fashion [28]. The craft's rising acceptability and success in contemporary markets test its adaptability and capacity to juggle heritage and current demands. Prospects for Kalamkari as a craft that encompasses both legacy and modern appeal are bright as artists explore new avenues.

11. CONCLUSION

A striking illustration of a cultural textile heritage that has persisted through the centuries and been enriched by the passage of time and the impact of societal change is the skill of painted Kalamkaris. Traditions serve as archives for information passed down from one person to another and from generation to generation, capturing the essence of a community's history and identity. Like all other parts of Culture, traditions change and adapt in response to evolving societal dynamics. This craft tradition has changed as younger generations attempt to renew and reinterpret in light of their historical history. These painted Kalamkaris have dealt with their own set of difficulties that once put their existence in jeopardy.

Nevertheless, they have undergone a comeback, restoring their former splendor and discovering fresh importance as a medium of organic surface trends in a sustainable fashion. While modern methods are essential for developing creative ideas and techniques, the complex interaction between contemporary and historical sources permits the development of tradition via change. The sustainability of the craft is supported by this link, in which the past informs the present, and the current revitalizes the past. This fine line between innovation and preservation assured the craft's survival and continued flourishing and vitality as a cultural expression.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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