

GOPIKA NATH: A PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Gopika Nath works with needle and thread. A Fulbright Scholar and an alumna of Central St. Martins, London, U.K, her association with textiles began in 1976. As a fibre artist, textile designer, writer and teacher her work spans many genres and her talent and expertise have been successfully employed by the **Corporate Sector**, the **Handloom Industry**, **Retail Organizations**, **Fashion Designers**, **Exporters** and **Educational** Institutes.

She has been a trail blazer in many ways and initiated the '**Art for Wear**' movement in India in the early 1990's with her range of exclusive **hand-painted sarees and scarves**. She has also worked with leading **Fashion Designers**, creating speciality fabrics for **Rohit Bal**, **Rina Dhaka**, **Gitanjali Kashyap** and **Ashish Soni**, among others.

Teaching has been integral to her art-practice from the commencement of her career. In addition to teaching traditional subjects relating to design, she conceived, designed and taught a **design sensitization programme for management professionals**. She presently conducts **workshops using textiles/embroidery** as a tool, bringing forth ancient ideals of hand-crafting into the contemporary environment, to help alleviate stress, **enhance creativity** and develop **leadership qualities**.

Ms. Nath has considerable experience in working with **crafts people** in the **rural sector**. Working with various agencies under the aegis of the **Ministry of Textiles**, and private organizations, she has undertaken projects for design and development of fabric in **Block printing**, **Ikat fabrics** in cotton and silk for **Furnishing**, **Sarees**, Hand woven **Dhurries**, as well as **Kashmiri**, hand embroidered **chain stitch** fabric and **Crewel rugs**. She has also worked in the **tribal region of Bastar** [Chattisgarh], reviving the dying, handloom art of the region.

Working for decades with textiles in its many avatars, Gopika has taken the medium beyond the form and function of design. Having been exposed, quite considerably to the existing hand-crafted textile traditions of India, she is inspired to embroider rather than paint on a canvas. She believes that **Textile Art**, in the Indian context, is a key element in redefining the **India's hand-crafting legacy** and its future in the mechanized/digital world. Working with needle and thread, exhibiting her work as an artist-craftsperson in the environs of the **Art Gallery**, her work lends dignity to the **notion of hand-crafting**. In presenting it as '**Art**', she brings awareness of the nuances of textile making and the ideals which created the textile legacy of India, thus elevating the value **of hand-crafting** beyond **that of skilled labour** which it is largely considered today.

While questioning the existing parameters of Art, and re-defining the demarcations between art craft and design through **Art for Wear**, **Installations**, **teaching**, **writing** and other creative expression of her ideas, Gopika is also working towards **evolving a personal iconography** through which she can present ideas that have their **antecedents** in this **global society**, but are also **deeply rooted in the Indian ethos**.

She is **well travelled** and **presents a world view** in all her activities and ideas. Gopika Nath has **studied in London**, and lived there for 7 years. As a Fulbright Scholar, she has spent time in the U.S. **researching Textile Art in America**, and has also **visited Japan**, sponsored by the **Japan Foundation**, on an exchange programme to meet and interact with **Asian Textile Artists/ Designers** and **exhibit** her work. She is **currently** involved in various **Art, Design, Research and Teaching** activities. Gopika is an **Art critic** and she also writes **Creative Non-fiction** and **Poetry**.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- 1985 **Central School of Art & Design, London, UK**
BA (Hons.) in Art & Design.
- 1982 **Sir John Cass School of Art, London**
Foundation Course in Art & Design.
- 1979 **New Delhi Polytechnic for Women, New Delhi**
Diploma in Textile Design (with Distinction)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Currently Working as a **Textile artist/Designer** and
Art Critic, Creative writer and **Teacher**

1987-1996 **Gopika Nath Designs**

Design Consultancy Services:

Designing and developing of fabrics

Surface Design - printing, painting, batik, etc.

Screen and Block printed designs for apparel, sarees and furnishings.

Exclusive *Designer hand painted* sarees, dress material, ties and furnishing fabrics.

Embroidery Designs

Dress materials

Constructed textiles (woven)

Sarees, furnishings & floor coverings.

Colour theme development.

SELECT CLIENT LIST:

East India Hotels Ltd. (Oberoi Hotels).
Indus Hotels Corporation Ltd. (Oberoi Enterprise).
DCM Ltd. (Delhi)
Shamken Multifabs Ltd. (Delhi).
International Wool Secretariat (Delhi).
Fabindia Overseas (Delhi).
Shyam Ahuja Pvt. Ltd. (Bombay).
Obeetee Ltd. (Mirzapur).
The Handloom and Handicrafts Export Corporation Ltd. (HHEC, Delhi).
Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Vikas Nigam (HSVN, Bhopal).
Association of Corporations & Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH, Delhi).
Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society (APCO), (Hyderabad).
Rehwa Society (M.P.).
Koyalaguddem Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society, (A.P.)
Pochampally Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society, (A.P.)
Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation.
Cohands C/o Development Commissioner Handicrafts
Vichitra Designer Sarees (Delhi).
Roop Saree Kendra (Delhi).
L'affaire (Delhi).
Heritage (Handloom Emporium), (Delhi).
Glitterati (Bombay).
Ogaan (Delhi).
Intercraft Ltd.
TI & M Limited.
Parry Murray & Co. Ltd.
Ritu Kumar
Ashish Soni.
Anjana Bhargava
Gitanjali Kashyap.
Manju & Bobby Grover.
Rina Dhaka.
Rohit Bal.

1986 **Ravissant, Delhi**
Chief Textile Designer.

1983 **Courtaulds (UK), Courtelle Division**
Intern (Studio practicum).

1978/79 **DCM Ltd., Delhi**
Intern (*Studio practicum*), Surface Design.

EXHIBITIONS:

2017 January *Trading Tales*, on-line exhibition hosted by Garland Magazine[Australia]
<http://garlandmag.com/article/trading-tales/>.

2016 January *'The Piercing Needle'*, a **solo exhibition** of recent works – using textiles,
Video, installation and text
Presented by **Gallery Sanskriti**, Kolkata

2015 August *'Fragments and Fragmentation'*, two person show with Kathryn Myers
Gallery Art and Aesthetics, New Delhi

2015 July *'Unfolding'- New Indian Textiles*, curated by *Maggie Baxter* [Australia]
Fremantle Art Centre, Perth, Australia

2015 March *'Unfolding'- New Indian Textiles*, curated by *Maggie Baxter* [Australia]
RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2011 April *'Fellowship Fulbright Alumni Artists'*, curated by *Kathryn Myers* [U.S.]
American Centre, New Delhi

2010 September *'Wide Angle 2010'* A photography and video art exhibition presented by
Wonderwall and **The Stainless** [art gallery], Mira Complex, Okhla,
New Delhi

2010 August *'A Tribute to The Lens'* A lens based photography exhibition to
commemorate World Photography Day, curated by *Sandeep Biswas*
M.F. Husain Art Gallery, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New
Delhi.

2009 February *'Drawn with Thread'* a **solo exhibition** of recent works using textiles
and video
Presented by **Gallery Seven Art Ltd.**, New Delhi

2009 February Group show-*'Satyagraha, A Soul Force'*
curated by *Dr. Alka Pande*,
presented by **Teamwork films** at **Casa dela India** in collaboration with
ICCR and the Embassy of India in Madrid, **Spain**.

- 2008** September Group Show - '*Satyagraha, A Soul Force*'
curated by *Dr. Alka Pande*,
presented by **Teamwork films** at **Sandton Civic Art Gallery**
Nelson Mandela Square, **South Africa**.
- 2008** February Group Show — *Vistaar*, curated by *Sushma Bahl*
Gallery Art and Soul, Mumbai
- 2007** September Group show – *Vistaar*, curated by *Sushma Bahl*
Presented by **Gallery Seven Art** at
'The Stainless', Mira complex, Okhla, New Delhi
- 2003** September Group Show - '*Performative Textures*'
Curated by *Dr. Alka Pande*
Presented by **Apparao Galleries** at
Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre,
New Delhi.
- 2001** January **Art India Inc.**<http://www.artindiainc.com> (**tehelka.com**)
e-gallery exhibition.
- 1999** October Group Show - '*Confluence '99*'
Vis-à-vis khirki Village, New Delhi.
- 1999** September Group Show - '*Contemporary Textile Art in India*'
British Council, New Delhi.
- 1998** October Group show - "*Painted Weaves*"
Art Indus, Santushti Complex, Delhi.
- 1998** October Group Show - '*Confluence '98*'
Vis-a-Vis, Khirki Village, New Delhi.
- 1998** September '*Artist of the Month*'
Vis-a-Vis, Radisson Hotel, New Delhi.
- 1998** April Group Show - "*Beyond the Canvas*"
Vis-a-Vis. Khirki Village, New Delhi.
- 1997** October "*Textile Dilemmas - To be worn or to be Hung?*"
Solo show of painted and embroidered Fibre/Textile art works
Academy of Fine Arts and Literature, New Delhi.

- 1997 May Group show of *Installation Art* at **Qutab Colonnade, Gallery Pontiac**, New Delhi.
- 1996 March *Study Tour/Exchange* sponsored by **Japan Foundation** Asia Centre Interaction with *Asian Textile Design experts* in Tokyo, Kyoto and Okinawa, **Japan**.
- 1991-1993 Exhibitions of exclusive hand painted sarees and ensembles in Delhi and Bombay.
- 1985 House & Garden "*Young Designer of the Year*" exhibition, **London**.

PUBLICATIONS:

IQ The Indian Quarterly
Garland Magazine (Australia)
Deccan Herald, Sunday Magazine
Victoria and Albert Museum blog
Embroidery Magazine (U.K)
Art India Magazine
Art & Deal Magazine
Take on Art
Exotica Magazine
Discover India (Media Transasia)
Swagat (Media Transasia)
Expressions (Sahara Airlines, in-flight magazine)
Life Positive Magazine
CFO Connect
Dataquest
'I' (Quarterly of the Visual arts) **India Habitat Centre**.
The India Habitat Centre's Art Journal
Art India Inc.<http://www.artindiainc.com/art> (**tehelka.com**)
Indian Design & Interiors (Media Transasia)
Indian Express, New Delhi
Times of India, New Delhi
Hindustan Times, New Delhi
Articles on Textiles/ Craft/ Design related issues
La Mode International as *Fashion Consultant*
Contributed articles on various Fashion issues.
Elite (Media Transasia Publication)
Features on Current fashion trends and designers.

FELLOWSHIPS:

2013	Artist Residency at Art Ichol, Madhya Pradesh
2000	Fulbright Fellowship for Visual and Plastic Arts.
1996	Japan Foundation Exchange Programme

EDUCATION/TEACHING

National Institute of Fashion Technology [Guest Faculty]
Delhi College of Art [Guest lecture]
Usha Sewing Schools [Training workshop]
Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi) [Lectures on colour]
New Delhi Polytechnic for Women (Delhi) [Guest lecture]
Art Classes for children age 5 years onwards

United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI) [Workshop]
India Habitat Centre [Workshops]
Zorba the Buddha [Workshop]
Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket [Workshop]
Epicentre, Gurgaon [Workshop]

LECTURES/AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS:

2016 August	Lopez Design Forum, New Delhi <i>The Journey from Textile Design to Textile Art</i>
2016 August	Gallery Art and Aesthetics, New Delhi <i>The Extraordinariness of the Ordinary</i> [curated by Amit Mukhopadhyia]
2015 May	Weavers Studio, Kolkata <i>Twist in the Thread</i>
2015 April	The Yarn Club, Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi <i>Twist in the Thread</i>
2014 January	India International Centre, New Delhi Modern Rasa Conference <i>'Fabric as Art - The Language of Contemporary Textiles'</i>

- 2009 February **Festival of the Sacred Arts**, presented by **ATTIC**, Siri Fort
'In Search of a Sacred Space'
- 2007 February **British Council** in collaboration with **CKS**
'Peccha Kuccha', **India Habitat Centre**, Delhi
- 2007 January **India Habitat Centre**, New Delhi
Dristi – International Seminar
- 2003 March **British Council, New Delhi**
'Return to Tradition' (Lecture, demonstration cum workshop on
Embroidery)
- 2002 October **Delhi College Of Art.**
Textiles as Art: The 'Art' Fabri
- 2002 February **India Habitat Centre, Visual Arts Gallery,**
New Delhi.
Textiles as Art: The 'Art' Fabric
- 2001 March **India Habitat Centre**, New Delhi,
in conjunction with **NID**, Ahmadabad
Cross Talk (series) on Design
'Textile Design: Beyond Form and Function or Style'.
- 2000 December **Colorado State University**, U.S.A.
as a visiting Fulbright Scholar.
'A Designer's Art'
- 2000 November **Colorado State University**, U.S.A.
as a visiting Fulbright Scholar.
'India: A Designer's Perspective.'
- 1999 November **Indian Institute Of Interior Designers**
4th National Convention, Hyderabad.
'Designing Textiles for the New Millennium'
- 1998 February **National Institute of Fashion Technology** - Delhi –
Fashion Spectrum'98, *'Design: A Bridge between Art and
Technology*

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The Chartered Society of Designers, UK - Diploma Member 1984 to 1994
Surface Design Association U.S. [1990-2005]

MEMBER SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Have served as member of selection committee for the following:

Heimtextil (Frankfurt) Fair participant/Agency Selection (**ACASH**)

National Centre for Textile Design
(*Ministry of Textiles*)

Master Craftsman Award

BLOGS:

EVOLVING A CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE OF EMBROIDERY:

Stitch Journal

<http://gopikanathstitchjournal.blogspot.com>

CREATIVE NON-FICTION:

Garam Masala Chai

<http://garammasalachai.blogspot.com>

PUBLISHED ART REVIEWS AND OPINIONS:

Artviews

<http://gopikanathartviews.blogspot.com>

POETRY: PUBLISHED POEMS

A Matter of Words

<http://gopikanath.blogspot.com>

Video interviews

Bring Home Stories – Artist showcase

http://bringhomestories.com/showcase_gopikanath.shtml

Interview by Professor Kathryn Myers, University of Connecticut, U.S.A

<http://regardingindia.com/portfolio/gopika-nath/>