

BLOCK PRINTING

Block Printing is the process of printing flowers using straws, prepared by engraving wood with the patterns of different flowers, on cotton or silk fabrics. This type of handicraft is very ancient and its traditions go back to old centuries.

Formerly in Uzbek block printing only the fabrics made of cotton were used, subsequently local masters learnt printing patterns in silk fabrics too. Block Printing Fabrics have their peculiar colors, the most widespread ones are red-black, blue-black (indigo) and yellow-black.

In the 19th century, craftsmanship centers were set up in Uzbekistan to produce various block printing items. Until 1920–1930 this type of craftsmanship which is full of artistic and technological traditions, constituted as the developed field of Uzbekistan's applied art.

By the mid of the XXth century, this field had almost disappeared in the republic. Only at the end of 1970 and beginning of 1980 with the efforts of Tashkent and Marghilan masters this field of craftsmanship was revived again. Creating Block printed fabrics using traditional and technological methods was set by modern masters from Tashkent and Marghilan cities.

Due to the revival of the customs and traditions and usage of national elements in modern clothes demand for block printed fabrics increased in 1990. A special attention

started to be paid to artistic and technological norms, because the value of the objects made using natural paints and cotton fabrics has always been high.

As a rule, black and red colored patterns are printed on white fabric (sometimes, it could be printed in the fabrics colored red or blue). The model of black colored print has its own style. Wood of the pear tree is soaked in animal fat, dried during the year, then flower pattern is engraved and it is used as a model.

Such molds, made with delicate taste, were a great creative work of wood carving. One cannot believe that these objects were made by hand. Nowadays, this kind of art is being popularized by the initiative of master from Marghilan Rasuljon Mirzaakhmedov.







