



Madhubani Art

Bharti Dayal

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- Experience the rich tapestry of folk art and color in the Madhubani paintings by artist Bharati Dayal
- Dayal's assimilation of newer imagery with folk imprints is another feature that gives a contemporary touch to the traditional art form
- With over 70 photographs of Madhubani paintings the book is a must-buy for art enthusiasts

Madhubani art's origin is believed to go back to the ancient era of the Ramayana, when the town was decorated by inhabitants of the region for the wedding of Lord Rama and Sita with elaborate wall paintings and murals. The philosophy of Madhubani art is essentially based on the principle of dualism. The artscape appears inundated with divine deities, the sun and moon, and flora and fauna along with features found in Buddhism, Islamic Sufism, tantric symbols and classical Hinduism. Primarily a significant socio-cultural engagement for the womenfolk of Bihar, this art was a welcome break from their daily drudgery. Immersed in the folklore of Mithila, fresh forms and figures are painted and repainted on walls and floors of their homes to mark special occasions. Well-established procedures are followed and techniques are passed on from one generation to the next, keeping the ephemeral art form and ancestral tradition and its lore alive. Madhubani artists today are seen to work more with brushes and acrylic paint rather than natural dyes and pigments. They now also work on paper, cloth, canvas and wood to create art and artifacts, besides painting on walls and floors. Contents: Foreword by H.E.M.S. Puri, Ambassador of India in Belgium; Preface by Martin Gurvich; *Imaging the Divine: Artscape of Bharati Dayal* by Sushma K Bahl; Krishna; Shiva; Ganesha; Devi; The Mahabharata Nature; Bharati Dayal.

Bharti Dayal, born at Samastipur, grew up in Darbhanga district of Bihar in Mithila region known for Madhubani folk style of painting. Though her formal education was in science and she holds a master's degree in the subject with a gold medal, she continued to learn painting from her mother and elders in the family. Showing professionally since 1991, her work has been exhibited in numerous shows across India and internationally. Winner of the State, National, AIFACS and Millennium Art awards, she has also been helping promote work by women of her native village. Bharti lives in Delhi and works from her studio at home.