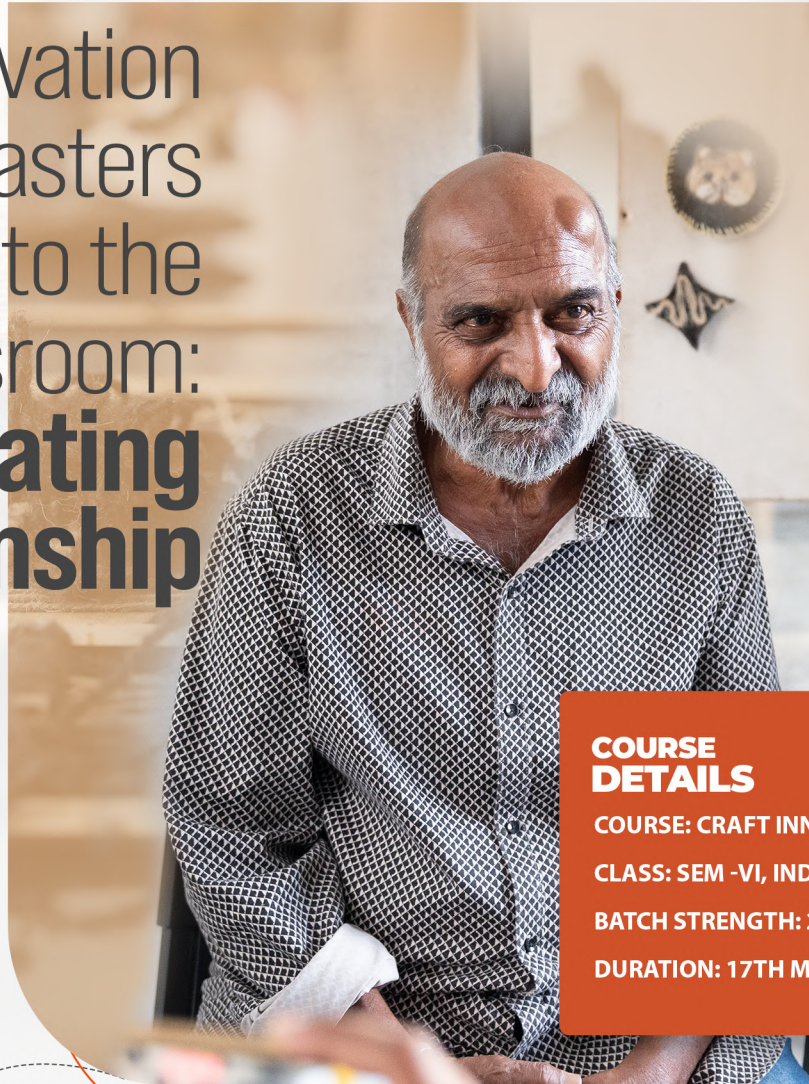


Craft innovation bringing masters into the classroom: **Celebrating Craftmanship**



COURSE DETAILS

COURSE: CRAFT INNOVATION

CLASS: SEM -VI, INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

BATCH STRENGTH: 22 STUDENTS

DURATION: 17TH MAR TO 2ND APR

**BRIDGES
THE GAP BETWEEN**

**TRADITION
AND INNOVATION**



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Introduction

Recently, School of Arts & Design, Woxsen University, conducted in collaboration with industry partner Earthen Tunes Pvt. Ltd. and the craft organization Dakhnii Diaries.

The 12-day intensive course was thoughtfully planned by Mr. Nakul Lathkar, Chief Designer, Earthen Tunes Designs Pvt. Ltd aligning closely with the course objectives. Mr. Gopikrishna from Dakhnii Diaries, along with artisan Mr. Doullappa, played a pivotal role in providing students with direct exposure to traditional craft techniques and practices.

The Craft Innovation course was designed to immerse students in the vibrant world of traditional crafts, encouraging them to document, understand, and reimagine these practices for contemporary relevance.

The course was structured around three core modules—**Understanding the Craft | Craft Immersion | Craft Innovation** guiding students through a journey from foundational research to hands-on learning, culminating in creative reinterpretation.

Student's craft samples



Context

The Craft Innovation course, aligned with the Telangana Government's initiatives, plays a pivotal role in preserving and revitalizing the state's rich artisanal heritage. By integrating traditional crafts into contemporary design education, the course ensures that age-old techniques are not only preserved but also adapted to modern contexts. This alignment supports the state's objectives of promoting sustainable livelihoods for artisans and fostering innovation in the craft sector.

Through hands-on training and collaboration with local artisans, students gain a deep understanding of indigenous crafts, enabling them to develop products that resonate in both local and global markets. This approach not only enhances the employability of graduates but also contributes to the economic development of artisan communities. By bridging the gap between tradition and modernity, the Craft Innovation course embodies the Telangana Government's vision of sustainable and inclusive growth in the creative industries.

Details:

Course: Craft Innovation

Class: Sem -VI, Industrial Design Students

Batch Strength: 22 Students

Duration: 17th March to 2nd April



Student with craft samples (Module 2: Craft Immersion)

Course Outcome:

Students created sample pieces using traditional craft methods like tapestry, needle felting and wet felting. Students developed original contemporary products inspired by traditional craft techniques.

Student Feedback

"Interacting with artisans was one of the highlights of the course. The workshops gave us real insight into the process and challenges artisans face. It helped us appreciate the skill and effort involved - Learning techniques like tapestry, felting, and craft documentation improved our manual skills and attention to detail. We also learned how to adapt traditional methods for modern applications."

"The final module really pushed us to think creatively and responsibly. Creating a contemporary products using traditional techniques made us think critically about sustainability, storytelling, and utility."

Learning Outcome

Gained first-hand experience in studying and documenting traditional crafts
Develop a deeper appreciation for craft heritage and artisan knowledge
Learned to translate traditional techniques into functional or conceptual modern designs



Mr. Gopi (Founder, Dakhnii Diaries) at left &
Mr. Doullappa (Artisan) at right

Processes:

Module I: Understanding the Craft Beyond Objects – People, Culture, Traditions (Duration 4 Days)

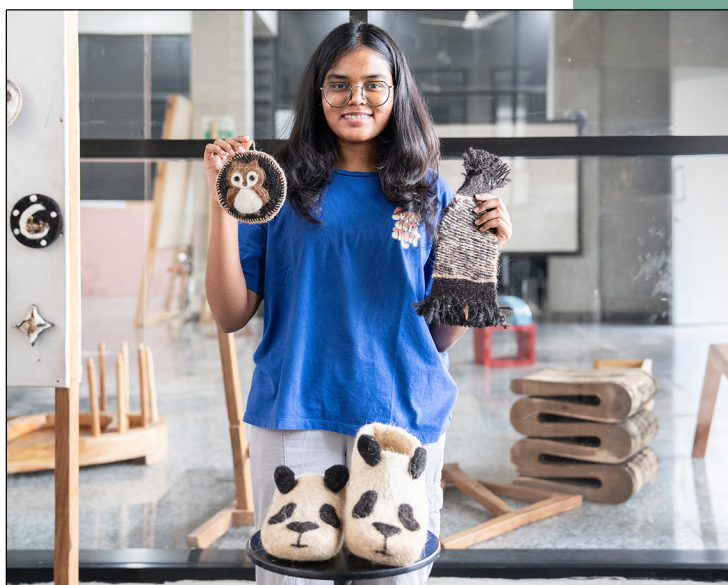
Students began by exploring the deeper context of crafts, going beyond the physical objects to understand the people, culture, and traditions behind them. They were introduced to the importance of craft documentation and various research methodologies. Emphasis was placed on ethical engagement and accurate representation. Each student group selected a traditional craft within a 500 km radius for focused study and developed a research document.

Module 2: Craft Immersion (Duration 4 Days)

Through Dakhnni Diaries-led workshop, students engaged directly with Mr. Gopi and the artisan Mr. Doullappa, gaining practical insights into materials, tools, and processes. This module involved hands-on demonstration of traditional craft techniques like tapestry, wet felting, and needle felting while creating various sample pieces. The immersive experience enabled students to understand the nuances and challenges of craft-making from the artisans' perspective.

Module 3: Craft Innovation (Duration 4 Days)

In the final phase, students shifted from observation to innovation. They analyzed market trends and sustainability concerns, identified challenges faced by artisans, and brainstormed ideas for contemporary, craft-based solutions. Each student developed an original product prototype inspired by traditional techniques, and prepared final poster that reflected both their design approach and creative innovation. The course concluded with a final display presentation and a reflective discussion on the future possibilities of craft-based design.



Student with craft samples (Module 2: Craft Immersion)



Deccan Glow: table lamp by Vidhya
(Module 3: Craft Innovation)



DHAK: woollen fanny pack by Harrish
(Module 3: Craft Innovation)



DeWool: eye mask by Kanika
(Module 3: Craft Innovation)



Cross-body Bag by Amrita
(Module 3: Craft Innovation)

“Craft documentation is not just about archiving the past—it's a doorway to designing a more inclusive, ethical, and culturally rooted future.”

It bridges the gap between tradition and innovation, theory and practice, and design and society.



Students and faculties with Mr. Nakul Lathkar (Module 3: Craft Innovation)



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