

## MODULE – 3

Wall Painting



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## SANJHI ART

Dear learner, in the previous lesson you have learnt about Warli art. In this lesson, you will learn about the Sanjhi folk art. Sanjhi art is the folk art made during ‘Sanjh’, which means twilight, dusk or evening. It is prevalent in Rajasthan, Western Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Nepal. It is known by different names in different places, such as Sanjhi, Sanjhya, Hanja, Hanjhya, Sandhya, Sanjha etc. ‘Sandhya’ is also the name of the setting sun’s wife. This time is believed to bring happiness, joy and delight to all people along with the sun.

The Sanjhi of cow dung is said to have originated in Ajmer of Rajasthan. The Sanjhi of banana leaves is used to decorate the famous pilgrimage Shrinathji temple in Nathdwara of Rajasthan.

Sanjhi, made by using coloured powder on water, started in the Govardhan Nathji temple of Udaipur and is still made there.



### OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- describe the tradition of Sanjhi painting;
- explain the Sanjhi made by cow dung, banana leaves and putting coloured powder and water;
- differentiate between the method of making of all the three types of Sanjhi arts;
- recognize the material used for making different types of Sanjhi;
- identify the motifs used in Sanjhi.

### 3.1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Learner, let us learn the general description of Sanjhi painting. The Sanjhi made of cow dung is also called Sanjhphoolani or Sanjhaphooli. Some relate it to the human daughter of Brahma, Sandhya and some to Devi Durga and Parvati; Sandhya Devi and nine forms of Devi, as well as Brajdevi Radhika, are also related to other types of Sanjhi. It is also believed that the image of Sandhya made by Krishna to impress Radhika is known as Sanjhi. A grand festival of Sanjhi Mandan is seen in the Braj region. Huge crowds of people from near as well as far off places gather to get a glimpse of Krishna Leelas in every Radha-Krishna temple, through the medium of Sanjhi art.

Different figures made of cow dung Sanjhi are either according to the sequence of dates or date numbers. After making Sanjhi for ten days, a coating is done. The coating is a surrounding wall for protecting forts, palaces or houses. This coat remains with the Sanjhi till the end, and a similar coat is also made for other Sanjhi art that increases their beauty. The basis for the coat or rampart is related to the story of establishing of the township. The motif of Dwarikapuri of Krishna is seen in these Sanjhis.

### 3.2 TRADITIONAL SANJHI MOTIF

To begin with, you need to understand the traditional Sanjhi motif. The list of figures made in Sanjhi made by cow dung is as follows:

Ekam	: a star, a pacheta, a sun, a jalebi, a khajur, a ghevar, a feni, a kalashi
Beej	: bandarwal, Moon of dooj, rolling pin-board, Sanjhi-Sanjha, two janeya, two cymbals, jhalar-danka
Teej	: three tibari, constellation, bow-arrow, scales-weight, taal-tataiya, pilgrimage
Chauth	: Chaupad, charbhar, four thieves, chakari-bhanvara, Moon and stars, male and female art
Pancham	: pattal-done, kite, betal leaf, five playing stones (pachete), five stars, five Pandavas, pankhi, five sathiya, Panvads
Chhath	: Chhabeli, stick, flower with six buds, butter milk churner
Satam	: seven rishis, satiya, sanjha savar, sarvar, seven female friends
Aatham	: flower with eight buds, amla bush, mango, aamali, walnut, aal
Nam	: nam, nimdi, nisarani, Nal-Damyanti, nau dokre dokri, nag
Dasam	: dan peti, das kothli, dal-baati, daavat-kalam
Gyaras se amavas	: Sanjhi coat



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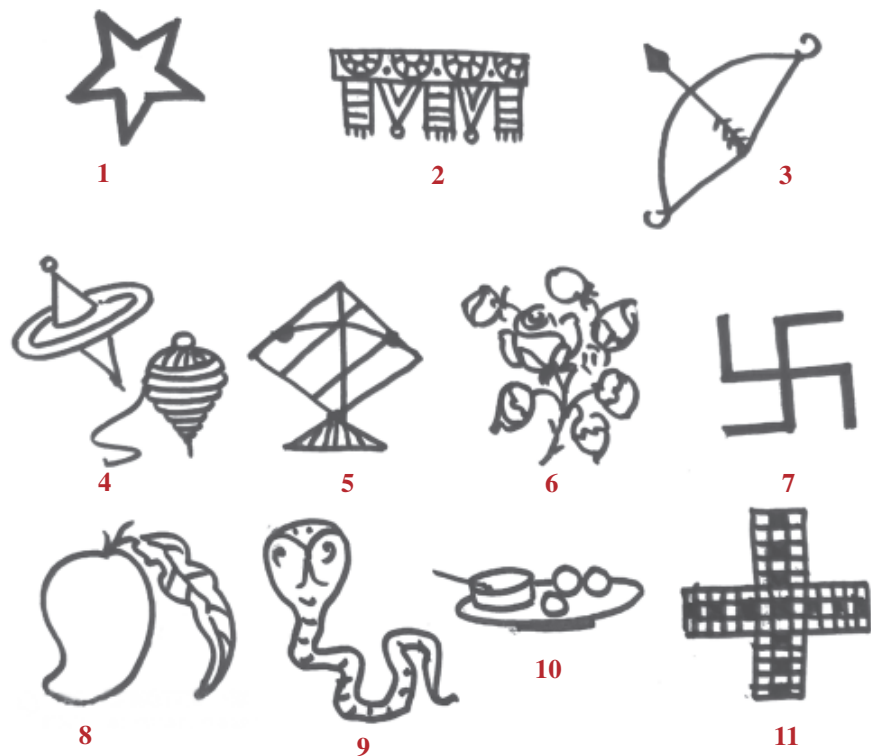


Fig. 3.1

### 3.3 MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR MAKING SANJHI

- Ply board or hard board of 18" × 24" size.
- Circular or rectangular tray to fill water
- Poster colour
- Multi coloured sheets or paper
- Banana leaves
- Different types of flowers and leaves
- Fine cloth
- Bamboo skulls
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Scale
- Fevicol
- Ordinary paper

### 3.4 TRADITIONAL METHODS

Now let us learn the traditional methods of Sanjhi art. Figures to be made for Banana Leaf Sanjhi.

To make Sanjhi, take a utensil with a flat surface. Fill it with water, leaving some space on its right and left side, and arrange bamboo skulls. Sanjhi is made in the space between the skulls keeping the empty space separate. The outer part of the skulls is to be shown to the audience. By shaking the utensil, the water of the utensil ripples and the Sanjhi also appears very beautiful by sparkling. Initially, powder of white and red stone colour and then coal powder is sprinkled. After that, a paper mould is kept to make the Sanjhi. On it the colour of choice is sprinkled. These are dried colours prepared at home by grinding and mixing rice, coal, brick, yellow clay, light stones etc.

These days all types of stone colours, available in the market are used.

To sprinkle the colour, coloured powder is taken in a fine cloth and filled in the mould as required while sieving with the help of finger. The mould is picked up after it is filled with colour. Sometimes a single image has to be decorated using two, three or four colours.

Badala is sprinkled to make a particular image bright and attractive. Just like above water, Sanjhi is also made inside the water. In this case, Sanjhi is first prepared in an empty utensil and then water is poured carefully over it.

The Leelas of Krishna in Braj, Gokul, Vrindavan, Mathura and Dwarika are shown in Sanjhi. Most Leelas are in presence of Yamuna, so images of Yamuna appear very beautiful. Scenes of choice are shown in this Sanjhi in no particular order. The Leela scenes are roughly as given below:

Vishnu sleeping on a lotus leaf, Brahma ji originating from his belly button through lotus stem. The celebration of Krishna's birth in Gokul-Mathura, stopping of Gopis by Krishna along with Sakhas during dandeel as, palaces of Braj amid mountains, flora-fauna, Krishna playing with ball along with Sakhas, falling of ball in Yamuna, Naag Daman by Krishna, etc.

For the coat or rampart, Krishna defeating the arrogant wrestler named Chanur alongside majestic palaces of Kansa, colourful fish inside river Yamuna, hustle-bustle between tortoise and crocodile, teaching a lesson to an elephant called Kubalya Pid containing the strength of ten thousand elephants, Vishram Ghat where Krishna rests after defeating Kansa.

It is noteworthy that nowadays painting of Sanjhi art is seen rarely during shraddhapaksh. According to convenience Sanjhi is made for seven days, ten days



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or randomly in different places. Not only that, Sanjhis made on thick paper are now available in the market. Girls buy them to decorate their houses for worshipping.

**PRACTICAL EXERCISE 1**

Learner, you have learnt the traditional method of Sanjhi art. Now we will prepare a Stencil Sanjhi step by step.

Stencil Sanjhi is mostly made in Mathura. These consist mainly of Rasa Leela of Radha-Krishna, Krishna playing the flute, Gopis among vegetation etc. Let us now learn to make stencil Sanjhi.

**First step:** Firstly, collect all the required material. First, we will take 100-300 GSM paper appropriate for making the stencil. We will also take pencil, eraser, stencil, knife and coloured paper for the background. After that, we will select the image. You can draw with your hands or take separately. Here, we have chosen the motif of Krishna playing flute.



Fig. 3.2

**Second step:** Now we will sketch the motif of Krishna with a pencil on stencil paper. Make the design with thick line and a fine line alongside. Fill areas to be cut with colour. This will ensure which portion has to be cut.



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Fig. 3.3

**Third step:** After completing the stencil, the coloured portions are to be cut. Carefully cut these portions with a knife. A steel scale can be used for a straight line and curved cuts can be done by rotating the paper. Glazed or marble paper is appropriate for this purpose. Cutting it finely requires patience and precaution.



Fig. 3.4

**Fourth step:** In the final step, fix a background paper behind the stencil. You can use any colour. Here we have used red coloured paper.





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Fig. 3.5

### PRACTICAL EXERCISE 2

Now let us prepare one more Sanjhi, that is Cow Dung Sanjhi.

Cow dung sanjhis are made in the state of Punjab. In this folk art, the figure of mother Sanjhi is made, which is worshipped by women. It is a tradition to make mother Sanjhi, mostly during Navratras.

**First step:** Firstly, collect the clay and cow dung. Soak the clay after grinding it. After that, make a dough. It has to be smooth so that it does not crack upon drying. Make portions that can be given different shapes using hands. Different shapes are prepared to decorate the mother such as hand, sun, moon, jewels etc. as shown in the figure.



Fig. 3.6

**Second step:** Once the shapes dry up, colours are used to decorate them. Primarily natural colours are used. However, these days acrylic colours are also used according to changing times.



Fig. 3.7

**Third step:** In the third step, stick all the parts on a wooden board or wall with the help of cow dung and leave for drying.



Fig. 3.8



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**Fourth step:** Finally, decorate the idol of the mother. For example, bindi, bangles, jewels, eyes, ear rings etc. can be filled with colours. Thus, the idol of mother Sanjhi is ready.



Fig. 3.9

### PRACTICAL EXERCISE 3

Now we will get to know the method of Water Sanjhi.

This art is believed to have originated in the 15th century in Vrindavan. Radha Ji is said to make colourful art to impress Krishna. Different mediums are used to make this art. However, water Sanjhi is popular in Udaipur of Rajasthan. Let us understand how water Sanjhi is made.

**First step:** Firstly, it is most important to prepare water a day before making the water Sanjhi. Clearwater is kept in a big utensil to steady it, after which a base colour is prepared to put on the water. The base colour is usually white, which is prepared using conch shell powder. Coal powder is used for making black colour. After that, it is sprinkled on the water very slowly with the help of a sieve. Being light, they swim. After sometime, it becomes uniform upon setting. In the way, a base is prepared.



Fig. 3.10

**Second step:** A topic is selected to make this painting. Usually, the painting is based on mythology. Here we will show Hanumanji carrying the Sanjeevani booty mountain. So, firstly we will make the image of Lord Hanuman. After that, we will prepare the stencil and do the cutting finally. A paper cutter can be used to cut for the stencil. In this way, the main motif is ready. You can make it using hands or computer graphics.

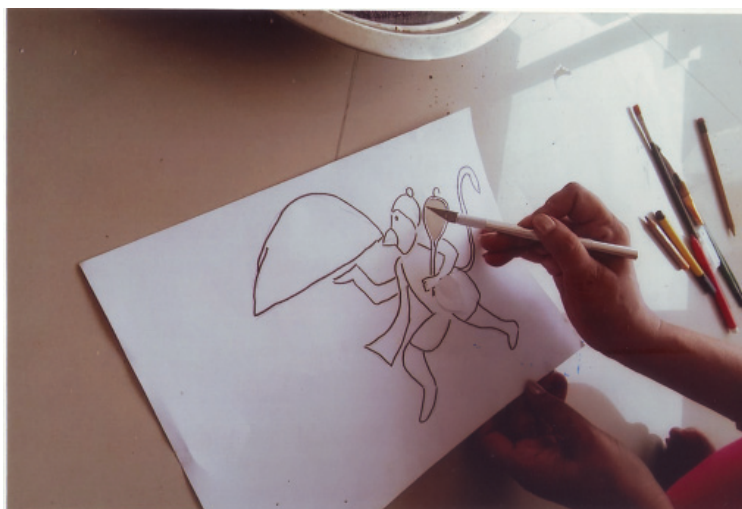


Fig. 3.11

**Third step:** After preparing the motif of Lord Hanuman place it slowly over the water in the area of the prepared base. Now it is decorated using colours. Natural or synthetic colours can be used for colouring. Gulal or Abir of different colours may also be used to make the colourful design. Colours can be selected according to your choice.



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Fig. 3.12

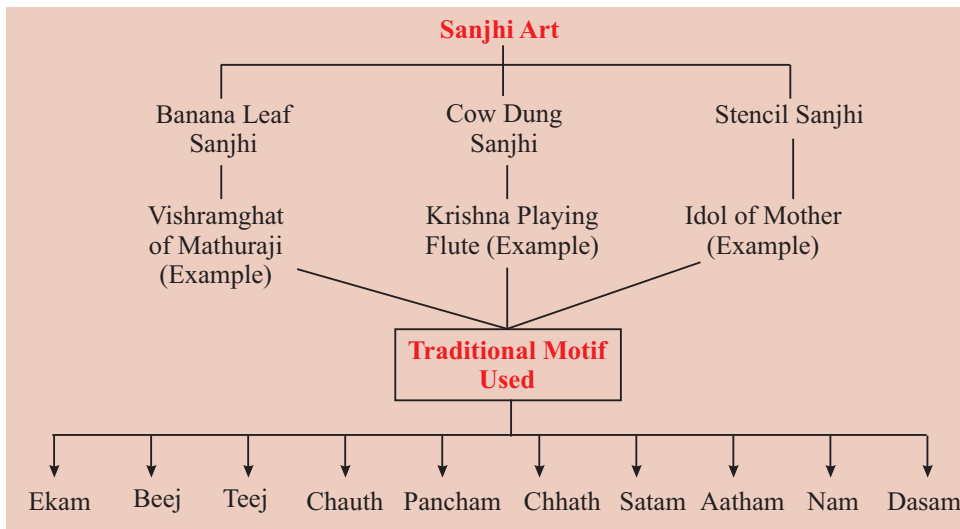
**Fourth step:** After filling the colours, pick up the stencil slowly. You will see that the colours that you had put into the stencil become finely defined. The image of Lord Hanuman can be seen clearly, and the colours don't spread. It can be decorated in the manner of rangoli to make vegetation. You will see that the work of art swimming in the water appears very appealing.



Fig. 3.13



## WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT



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## TERMINAL EXERCISE

1. Make different motifs using flowers and leaves of different colours to decorate them on the house wall with the help of cow dung.
2. Collect banana leaves and cut them in shapes of your choice. Spread them on the ground over a white cloth and make a composition. Sprinkle them with water periodically so that the shape does not get separated from the cloth and keep sparkling.
3. Take a small utensil filled with water. Sprinkle powder on it. Prepare a mould of a figure of your choice using a needle or sharp knife on a thick paper. Keep this mould carefully on water. After that, fill with colours of your choice using fine cloth to make attractive image. By picking up the mould the Sanjhi will appear sparkling on the water.

## GLOSSARY

- Pacheta : pebbles used for playing
- Cymbals : a pair of circular metallic plates used as a musical instrument that create a ringing sound when struck together. Each plate has an opening through which a string is passed to hold them together.

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**Notes**

Sanjhi Art

- Jhalar-danka : a metallic plate like instrument having upward surrounding edge which is played during arti in temples is called 'Jhalar'. A string passes through two openings on its edge to hold with the thumb. A wooden stick is used to strike it which is called 'Danka'.
- Chakari-bhanvara : spin and top made of wood
- Pattal-dona : used during group meal in place of plates and bowls, they are made of dhaak leaves
- Panvadi : special form farm for farming of betel leaf
- Kothli : small pouch
- Bandarwal : decoration made from cloth bags usually hung on doors
- Charbhar : a type of game