

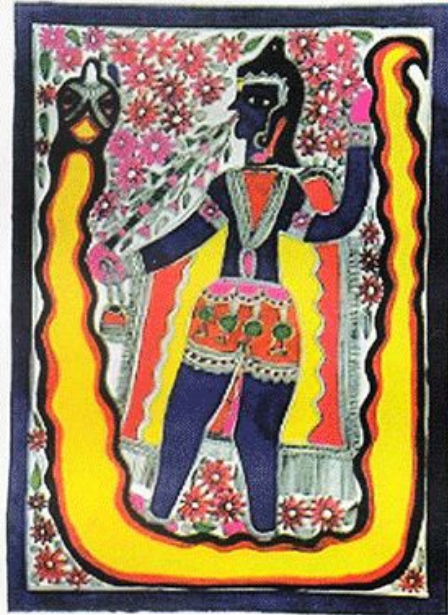
MADHUBANI PAINTING

Author: Mulk Raj Anand

Price: Rs 315, Language: English



Madhubani Painting



The art of Madhubani is purposive mythology. Not art in the sense of 'significant form' of the West. The paintings are legends to which the folk turn to pray in their daily rituals. The sources of the folk art of Madhubani lie in the dim areas of silence, an approximation to the heightened moments of creation itself. Through a mystical transformation of brush movements, the artist transforms the bodies into spirits: the flowers and birds enliven paintings that dare to reach the depths.

Squatting on the cow dung-plastered floors of their homes, which are surrounded by mango and banana groves beyond a green pond, women daily paint pictures. They have been doing this ritual colour work for generations.

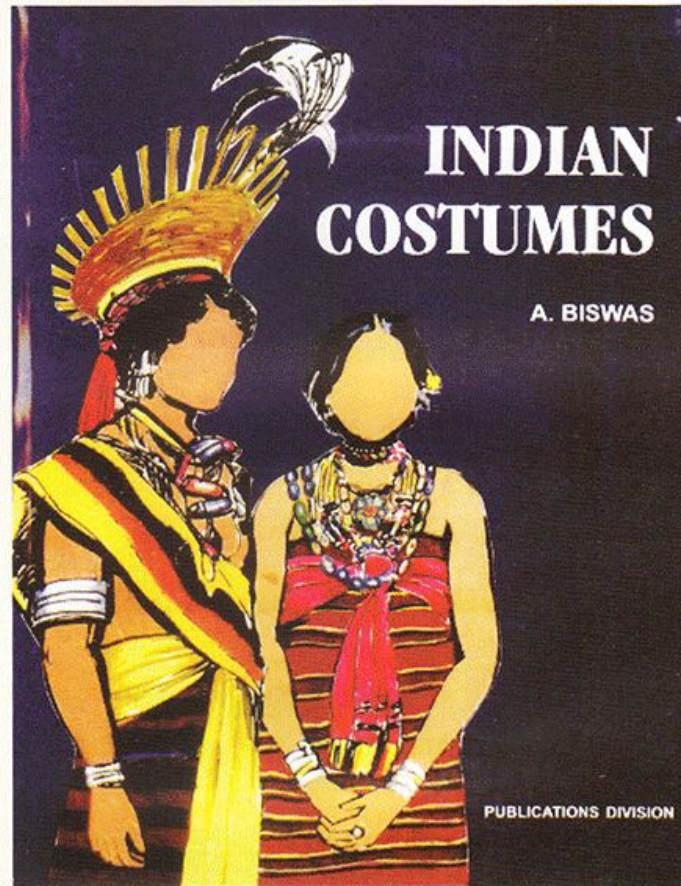
The author, Mulk Raj Anand, was a distinguished writer of novels, short stories, and critical essays in English and an art and literary critic. He wrote diverse books on aspects of South Asian culture, and taught at various universities. He was awarded the International Peace Prize in 1953, the Padma Bhushan in 1968, and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971. □

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INDIAN COSTUMES

Author: A BISWAS

Price: Rs 175, Language: English



The costume is a cultural representation of the people. It provides a vital clue to their customs, tastes, and aesthetic temper — in other words, their way of living.

The community decides what to wear and how to wear it. It also decides about the distinctions to be made based on sex and age, class and caste, religion and region, occasion, and occupation. Costume is truly a kind of dressing-table mirror of the time and the people. As thinking changes, so do the styles and dresses. People tend to acquire old tastes and adjust to new needs and circumstances. Foreign conquests, exotic ideas, and new influences also bring about changes.

This book, which is sufficiently illustrated, depicts in detail the dress transformation that has taken place over the ages in our country, known for its diversity. A Biswas, the author, is not just a well-read man but also a much-travelled person who has several books to his credit. □

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