

**Artistic Exploration in Scientific Research And Technology**  
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**Lecture -14**  
**Chittara Understanding the Technique**

Hello friends, in the last two classes we have seen two art forms from various part of India, one was from the Madhubani region of Bihar that was the Madhubani painting and one was from the central region of India that was the Gond painting. In today's class let us go to south of India and see a folk painting of the Karnataka state. So, today we will discuss Chittara painting and understand the technique used by the artist.

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So as we have seen in one of the previous classes that this is a form of folk painting that is done on walls of the houses and in baskets and door frames etcetera. So, this is an example of a Chittara painting on a basket that is made of bamboo, but it has been given a coating of mud and over that the Chittara painting is done.

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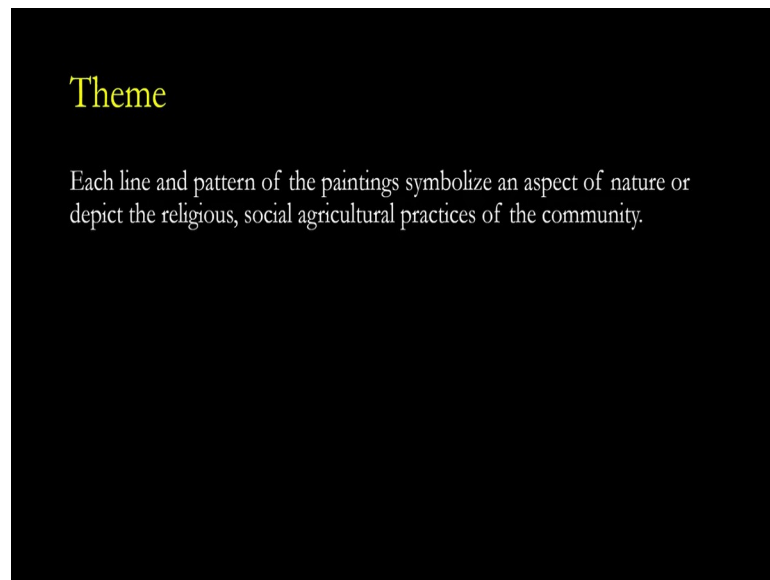
Chittara or hase chittara is a folk art practiced by the Deewaru community in Shimoga, Sagara and Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. The walls are colored with red mud found abundantly in the region and designs are drawn in white paint derived from rice paste and white mud. The lines and patterns on these paintings each symbolize an aspect of nature or depict the religious, social agricultural practices of the community. The stylised figures of Chittara painting are generally symbols of brides and grooms, fertility, the sowing of the auspicious paddy, birds, trees, animals etc. Musicians play auspicious music, brides and grooms affect yogic poses or stand in conjugal harmony. The delicacy in its delineation and its repetitiveness. The practice of drawing this art is accompanied by music and singing. Every situation and chore depicted on the wall, has a relevant song.

Chittara or hase chittara is a folk art practiced by the Deewaru community in Shimoga Sagar and Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka. The walls are colored with red mud found abundantly in the region and designs are drawn in white paint derived from rice paste and white mud. The lines and patterns on this paintings each symbolizes an aspect of nature or depict the religious social agricultural practices of the community.

So, you can relate this to the Warli painting that we have seen before. So, in Warli painting also the mud walls are painted with white paints, same as seen for chittara the mud walls here are painted with white paints. The stylised figures of Chittara painting are generally symbols of brides and grooms fertility the sowing of the auspicious paddy, birds, trees, animals etcetera. So, these are some of the common motive that we see in chittara art. Musician's plays auspicious music brides and grooms affect yogic poses or stand in conjugal harmony. So, this are some of the motifs that is depicted in Chittara painting.

The delicacy in its delineation and its repetitiveness. So, it is the patterns are repeated and the uniqueness is a is how find the painting is done, the patterns are repeated and you will see repeated patterns in most of the paintings. The practice of drawing this art is accompanied by music and singing. Every situation and chore depicts on the wall has a relevant song.

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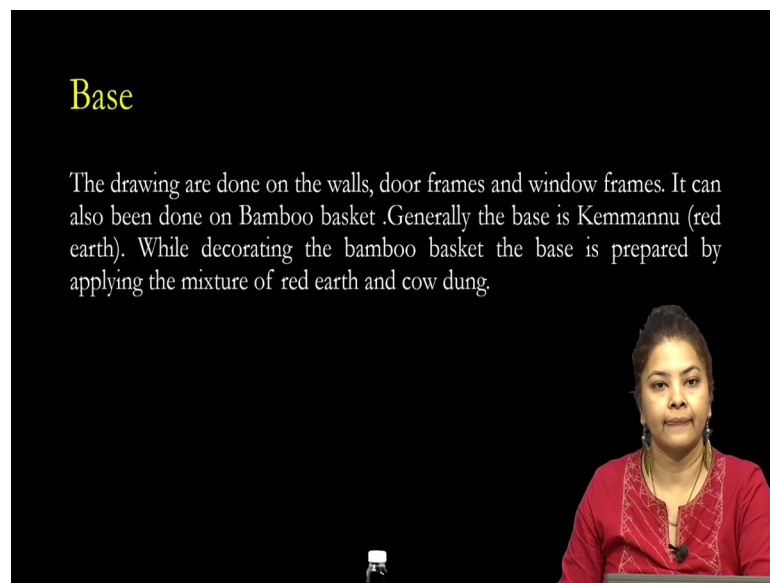
Themes; each line and pattern of the paintings symbolize an aspect of nature or depict the religious socio agricultural practices of the community. So, the people the Deewaru community of Karnataka are very close to nature and this is also depicted in the art form like many other art forms of India. You have seen previously in Gond art in Warli art in Madhubani art that people the artist depict whatever they see around them same as for chittara.

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Types; while the designs on the paintings are common across the entire community the paintings are divided into three types. According to the use of colour they are bili hase use of white colour that is derived from rice flour, a kappu hase use of red colour and it is derived from red mud, kemmannu hase use of black colour and it is derived from charcoals. So, based on the colours used on the painting the paintings can be divided into three types.

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Base; the drawings are done on the walls door frames and window frames it can also be done on bamboo basket that we have seen in the first slide generally the base is Kemmannu red earth, while decorating the bamboo basket the base is prepared by applying the mixture of red earth and cow dung. So, Chittara painting is also done on bamboo baskets and the bamboo basket is given a coating of cow dung and red earth and over that the painting is done.

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## Material used

The materials used are natural. The community makes its own colours deriving from natural sources such as bark of trees, wild berry, seeds, rocks, minerals, and vegetables. *Kemmannu* (red earth), *akki bittu* (rice flour), *masi kenda* (coal), *guragekaai bittu* (which gives yellow colour), lime stone, turmeric, milk etc has been used to prepare white, black, red and yellow natural colours.

Material used. The material used are natural like in most of the folk art the community makes its own colours deriving from natural sources such as bark of trees, wild berry seeds, rocks minerals and vegetables, red earth, rice flour, coal and various kinds of berries limestone turmeric milk etcetera I used to prepare white black and red and yellow colour which are derived from this natural elements.

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## Brush

Natural brush made by grass straw and a natural fibre are used to draw the lines. The fibre is inserted in the straw and a knot is tied to keep it firm and in its place.

Brush; the natural brush made by grass straw and a natural fibre are used to draw the lines. The fibre is inserted in the straw and a knot is tied to keep it firm and in its place like this.

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So, the brushes made with natural fibre and it is tied to an knot so that they get a firm hold of it.

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### Different Chittara art

Hasegode depicts the wedding hall with elaborate details of the *mantap* (the wedding altar), guests, the couple and festive mood. In the centre is the sacred place (altar) where the bride and the groom are seated around is the entire community, who is invited to witness the wedding and bless the couple.

Different Chittara art hasegode depicts. So, there are three kinds of they can be various Chittara art, but we are discussing three different types so, that the art form has many

different nuances of it. Hasegode depicts the wedding hall which elaborate details of the mantap. So, this hasegode Chittara depicts the mandap of a wedding guest a couple and festive mood in the centre is the sacred place, where does wedding ceremony takes place and seated around them is the entire community who has come to bless the couple.

So, you will see in Chittara art wedding scene is very common, you will see because this art is also done during the wedding of members of the Deewaru community. So, you will see the wedding scenes are quite common in this kind of this type of this form of art. So, hasegode depicts the wedding scene where a there will be a scared space and around which people will be seated such as this.

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So, in the centre you see in the square you see the couple seated the bride and the bridegroom around it are the depicting the people sitting around and there are some bird figures, who are thought to be auspicious and in the bottom, here in the bottom you can see some musicians playing musical instruments here, here you see the bird figure and these are the sacred pots these are the sacred pots.



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Mundige Chittara represents the pillars of the home. In the center is the palanquin, which carries the bride and bridegroom. The *Kelu Kumbha* on the top represents the sacred pot of water. On either side are the arms of Cupid, god of love who blesses the couple. At the bottom are the folk performers who play the sacred music.

Mundige Chittara represents the pillars of the home. In the center is the palanquin which carries the bride and the bridegroom. The *Kelu Kumbha* on the top represents the sacred pot of water on either side are the arms of cupid god of love who blesses the couple at the bottom are the folk performers who plays a sacred music. So, a Mundige Chittara is also represents a wedding scene, where the bride and the bridegroom are carried in palanquin such as this.

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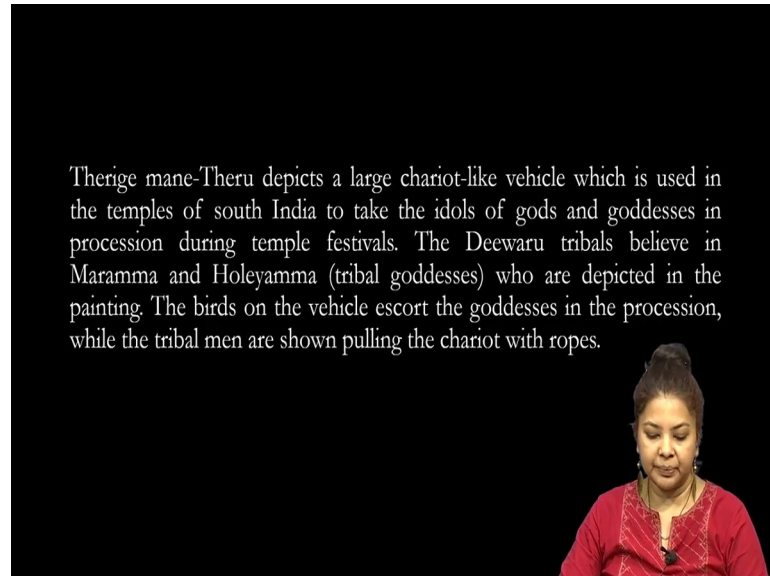


<http://indianfolkarts.com/Admin/Transactions/FormsOfArt/Pages/Forms-Of-Art17.aspx>



So, this is the sacred pot carrying water, it is supposed to be very sacred in within the community. Here is the bride and a bridegroom in a palanquin.

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Therige mane Theru depicts a large chariot like wheel which is used in the temples of South India to take the idols of gods and goddesses in procession during temple festivals. So, this kind of painting depicts the procession of the temples carrying the ideal of gods and goddesses. The Deewaru tribal believe in Maramma and Holeyamma tribal goddesses who are depicted in the paintings, the birds on the vehicle escort the goddesses in the procession while the tribal men are shown pulling the chariot with ropes such as this.

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So, here are the men pulling the chariot with the ropes, here is the idol of god, here is a bird figures. So, this is another form of Chittara painting this is depicting the temple procession.

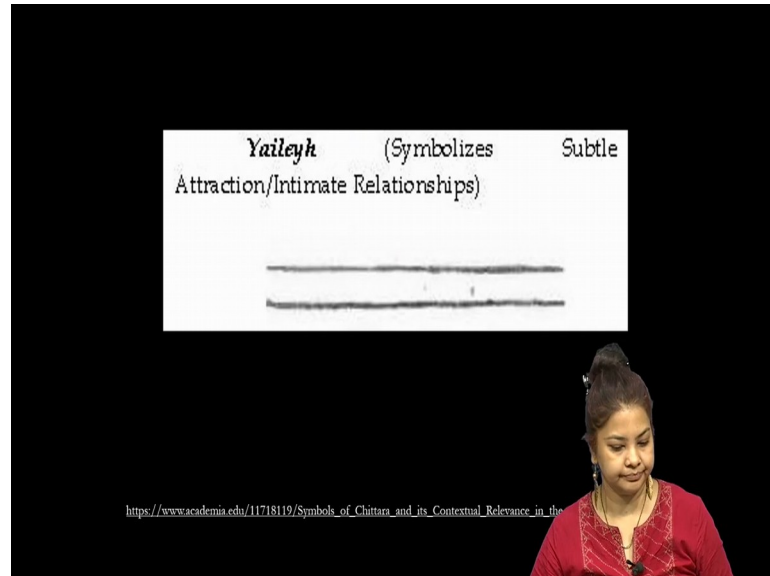
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Let us see some of the motifs that are commonly used in Chittara painting. So, this is Sithey Mudi which depicts the process the way a saree is draped and it also says that one should have a disciplined lifestyle this motif represents that one should have a discipline lifestyle and it things to be done in certain fashion so, that there is we gain

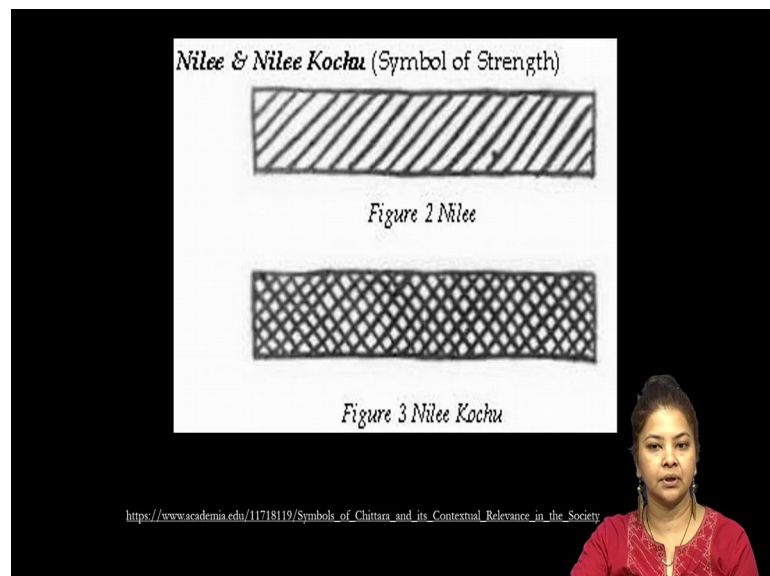
success in our life in whatever we do. So, this motif actually represents the way a saree is to be draped.

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This are two lines, these are actually the base of any Chittara painting which an no Chittara painting can start without this two lines. So, first the painting begins with drawing two parallel lines, this lines are supposed to represent attraction between two people it can be a attraction or a bond between a mother and a child or a couple or any other such relationship and this is a sacred bond between two people.

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So, this is Nilee and Nilee Kochu. So, that the Deewaru community build the houses using bamboo and the that bamboos are arranged in this diagonal fashion. When the bamboos are arranged in diagonal fashion its called Neeli and when one more layer of bamboo is put over it again diagonally to the first layer, then it is called Nilee Kochu it symbolizes the strength because the bamboo gives protection the bamboo hut gives protection from all the natural calamities or it protects the family from it. So, the bamboo this kind of figures actually represents strength.

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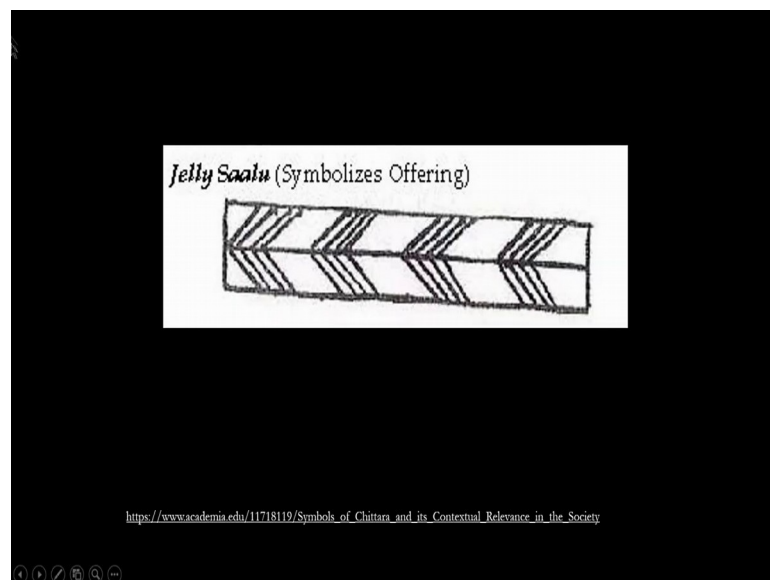
So, this is another commonly used motif in Chittara painting this represents thick crown of divinity and it is also sometimes shown in bride the bride and the bridegrooms just to say that during the marriage, the bride and the bridegroom are supposed to be equal to the divinity its a symbol of purity and divinity.

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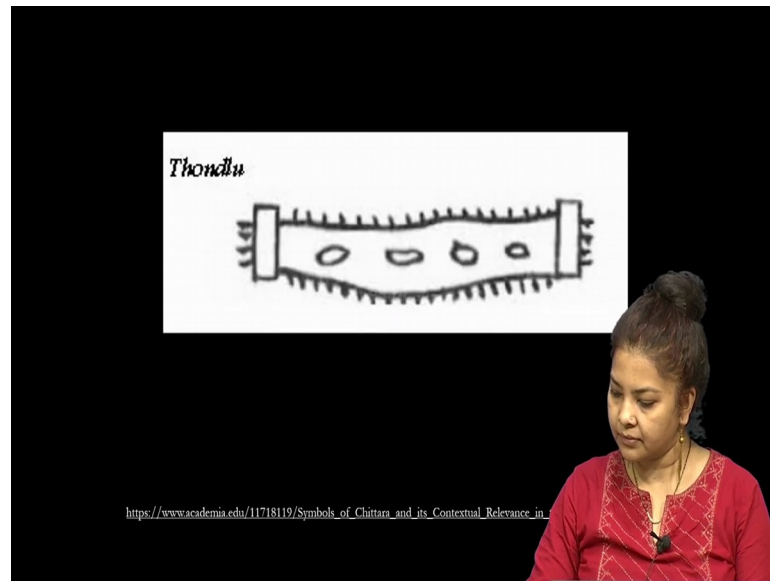
So, this is another motif which is generally used around the bride and the bridegrooms for decoration.

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So, this is Jelly Saatu which symbolizes offering. So, this type of a strap is also shown around the bride and the bridegroom when the wedding scene is depicted, it is said that it symbolizes offering and it is also a symbol of purity.

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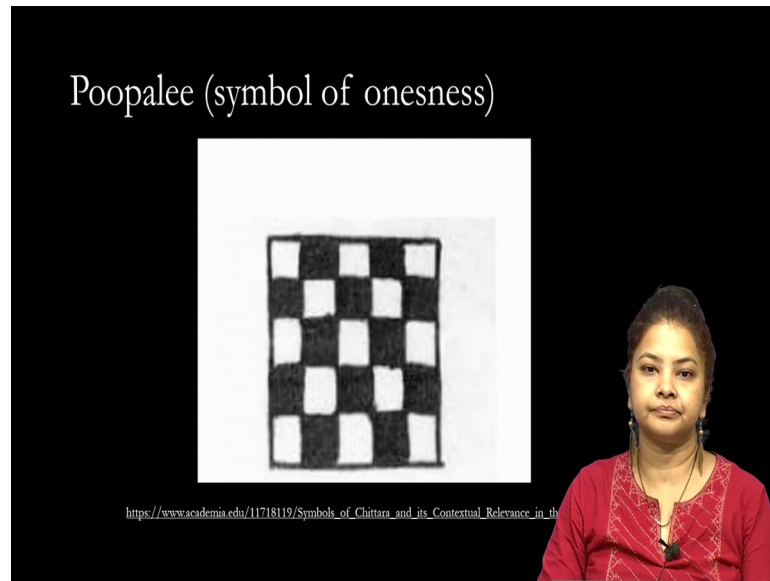
This is a strap shown around the head of the bridegroom.

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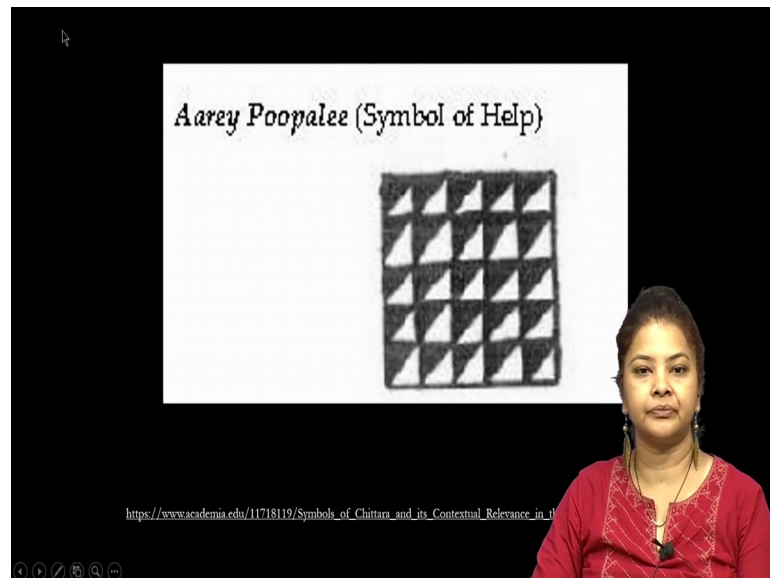
So these are flowers mostly there are of yellow and orange colour which sort of depicts the marigold flower. This flowers are shown in the decoration of the wedding halls and in some of auspicious occasion. This flower is supposed to symbolize friendship and it is also to say that when two people get married the families actually become friends the two people actually be become friends. So, the flowers represents friendship.

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This is a symbol of oneness, this also depicts the the eyes; the eyes of a person. So, it is said that one should not discriminate between different people, everyone should be equal for everyone like they should be; they should be no differentiation between two human beings.

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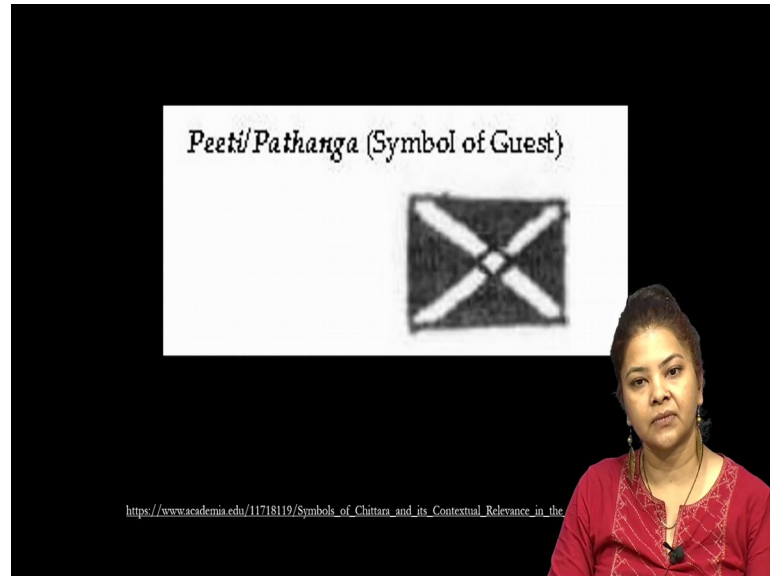


So, this is another intersecting layer which is also used while building a house which gives strength and this symbol is symbol of help that one should be helping each other



while construction people help each other. So, this also symbolizes help, the symbol also talks about help helping each other.

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So, this represents the butterfly or a honey bee. So, this symbol is actually talks about guests how you should be treating your guest in Indian tradition guests are supposed to be equal to gods. So, this symbol says that whenever there is guest in the house you should be totally respectful towards them.

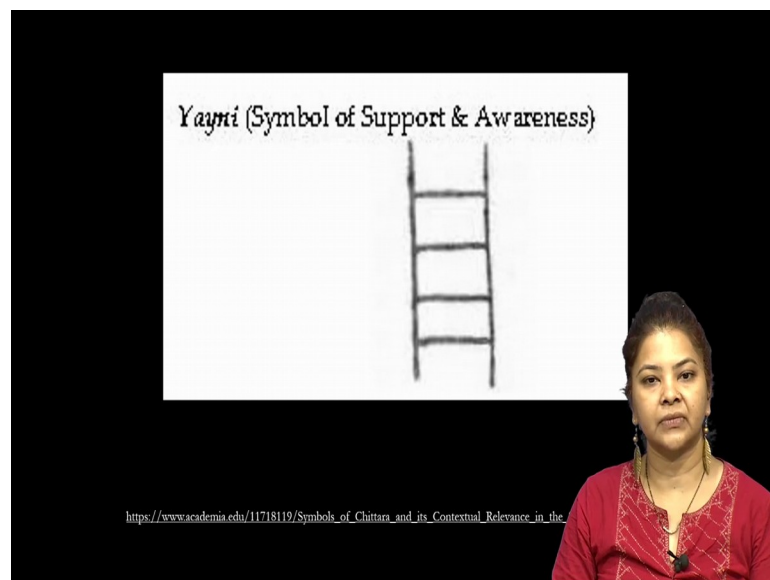
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So, this is a rooster or hen, this symbolizes economic growth in the Deewaru community a rooster is it exchange from other things like in barter system or sometimes the eggs of the hen is sold and also the hen works as a clock where there is no clock and it tells you about the time.

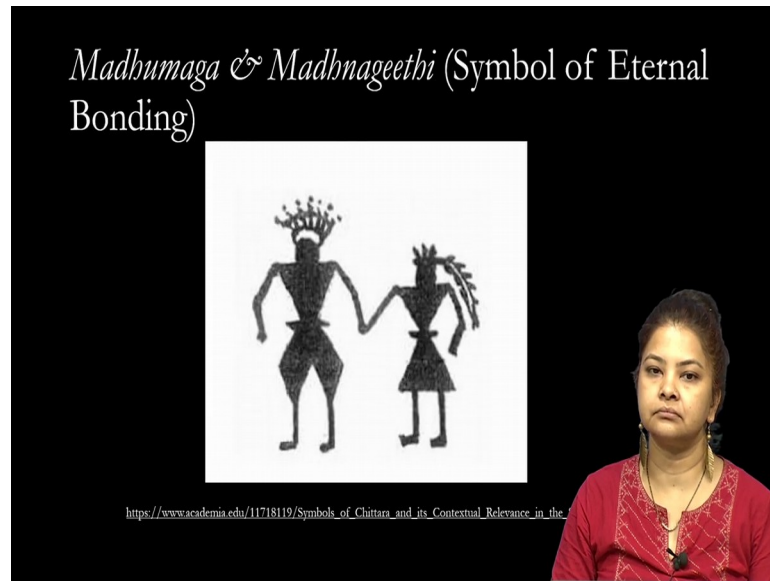
So, this rooster or the hen is supposed to symbolize economic growth. If you respect time if do your work in time you will progress in life this on one hand it also says that and in on the other hand it directly also says that the hen or the rooster is by selling the hen or the rooster the community people derives money or economic benefit or by selling its egg or by exchanging it with for other things. So, it also symbolizes economic growth.

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So, this is support and awareness its during the weight and it is shown in wedding scenes mostly saying that a couple should help each other and so, that they progress in life and you should support each other.

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So, this is a couple bride and a bridegroom which symbolizes eternal bonding, that they should be love between couple unconditional love.

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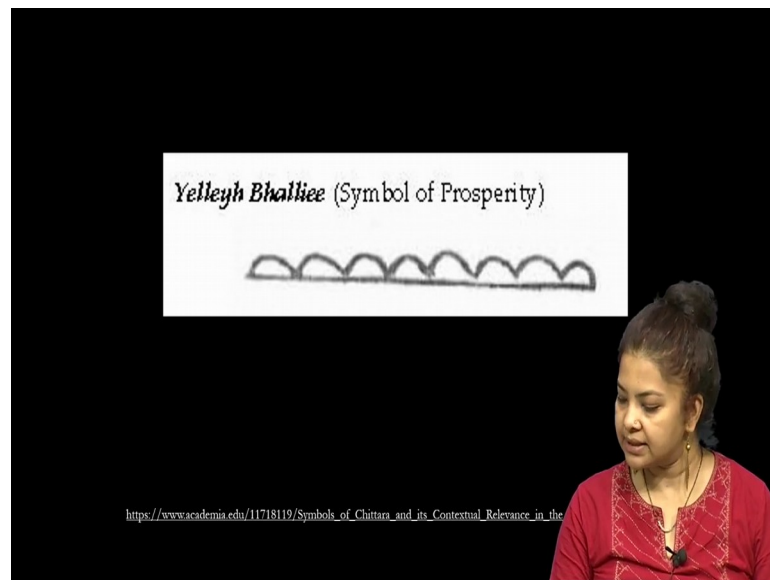
So, this is a trait of flowers, its actually the bud of jasmine flowers which symbolizes fragrance we can see how the birds are represented around the thread. So, this also talks about having pleasant feeling, no bitterness no ugliness this stand also represents good feelings positive feelings.

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This is a this represents a saw which is used to cut bamboo, its symbolizes a sharpness it is said that you have to be sharp in your attitude towards life to in order to succeed.

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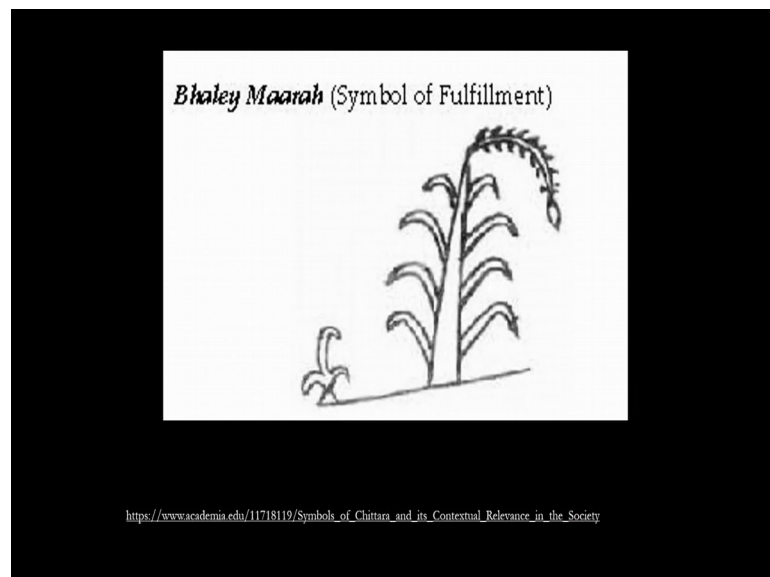
This is this actually symbolizes the betel leaf which has medicinal value and it is also you had after having meal which helps in absorption of the food. So, this symbolizes prosperity, this is the betel leaf actually.

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This is the this is a pile of grains which is kept after harvest, it talks about the prosperous womb or fertility in a women. This is also depicted in a wedding scene saying that to depict that to bless the bride with a prosperous womb. So, that she can have lots of offerings.

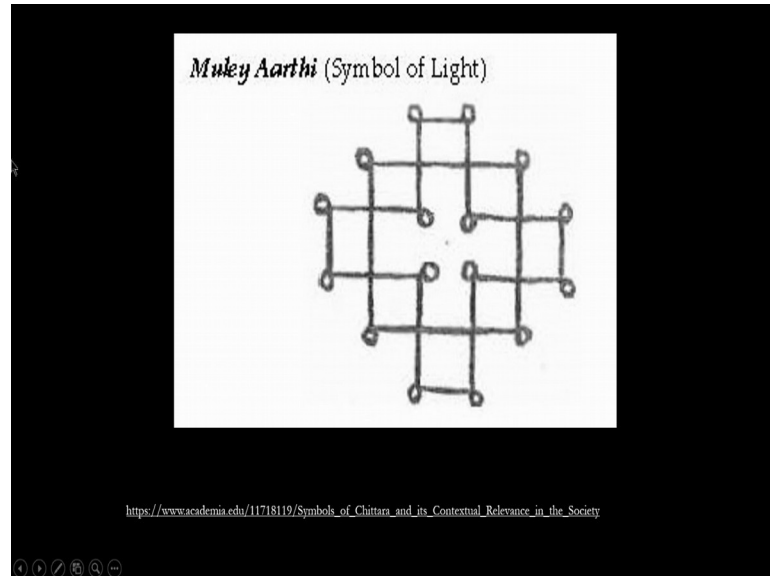
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This is banana leaf which is used to depict separation. So, when you during a painting this is used to divide painting in different sections. So, a banana leaf is the sustainable its used in packages, it is used to have meals, its a sustainable kind of; sustainable kind of

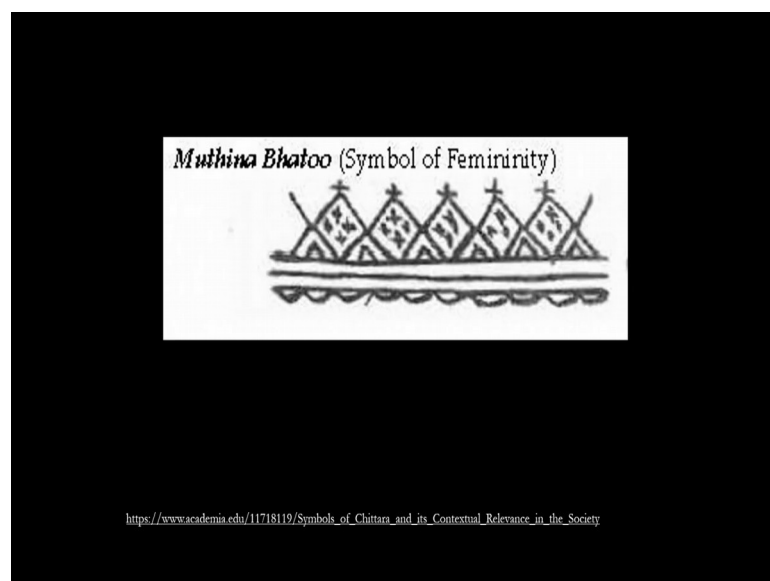
purpose it has. So, Deewaru community use the banana leaf quite often in their day to day life.

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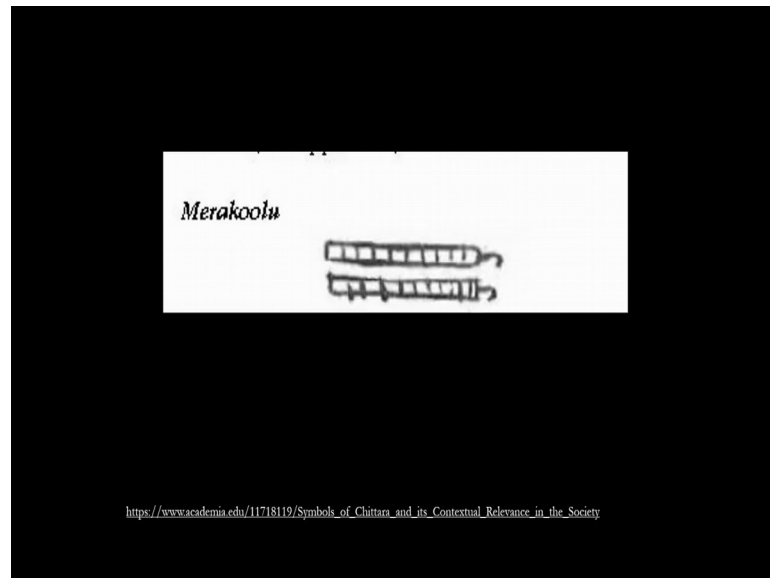
This is a plate of aarhi. Aarhi is the small lights used to during festival times or to pay obeisance to the god. So, this a plate of small lights or aarhi it symbolizes light and it talks about the spelling darkness with light. Look at the patterns, its a geometrical pattern it is done.

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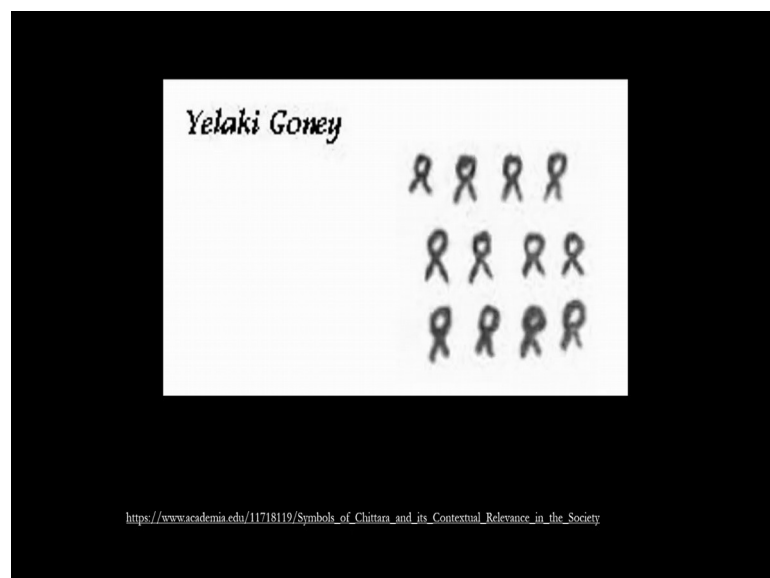
This represents the nose pin of the women, it symbolizes femininity, it also symbolizes the marital status of women. This is used in the Chittara painting to define a tool depict femininity.

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This is the kind of a farming weapon, which is used to remove particular kind of wheat. It is to say that we should have a particular way to combat particular problems in life, that the farming tool is used to symbolize that to give a lesson in life skills that is to remove unwanted things from your life.

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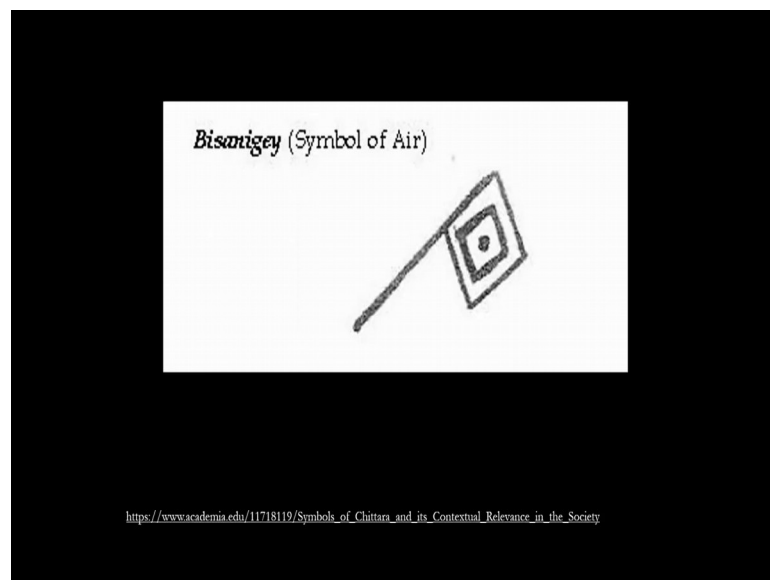
This is a kind of banana which are grown locally this is shown to depict abundance.

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This is to depict the holy feet of Basava in which is drawn in front of cowshed. Basava is a important deity of the Deewaru community.

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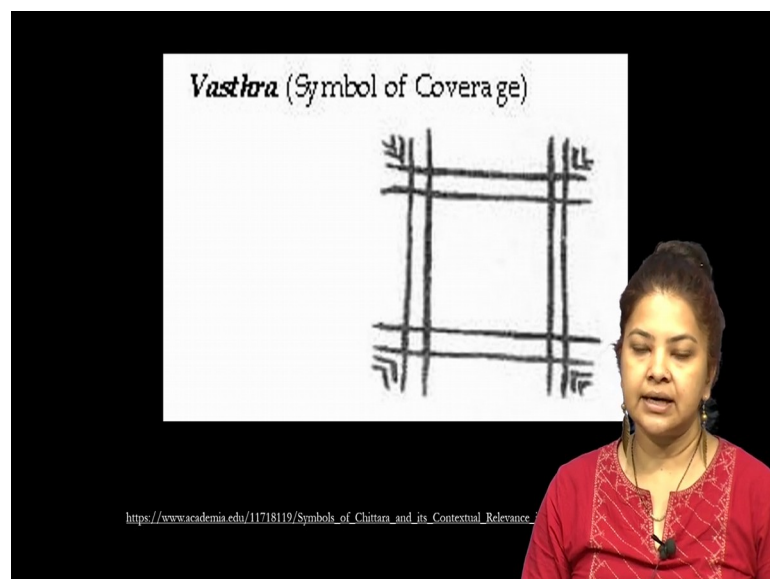
This is a hand fan used by the people of the Deewaru community, this symbolizes air or fresheners.

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This is a yogic posture you will see many yogic posture in Chittara painting. Here the person is sitting in cross legs. These are a some of the geometric pattern that you will say in Chittara painting and it has meaning that the person is sitting in a yogic position.

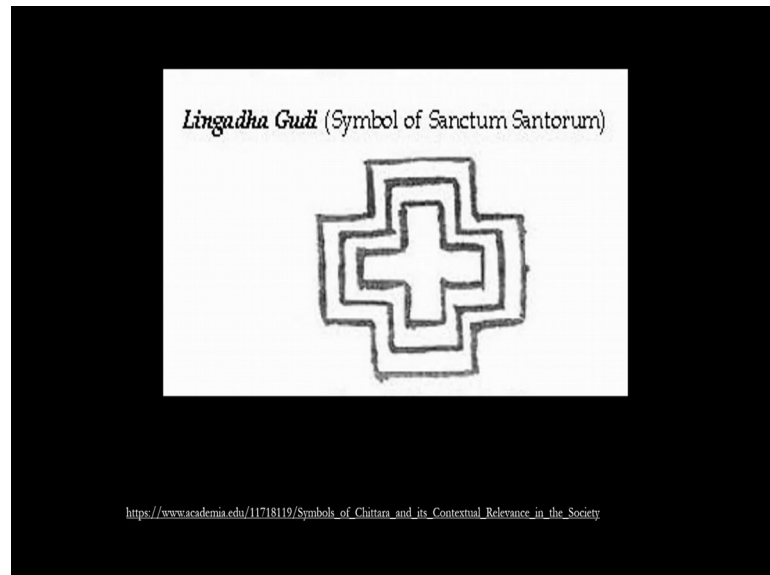
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So, this is a a representation of a space of a enclosure with it also symbolizes the heart of a person. It is said that the heart of a person should be pure and holiest place is the heart of a human being which is scared according to the belief of the Dewaru

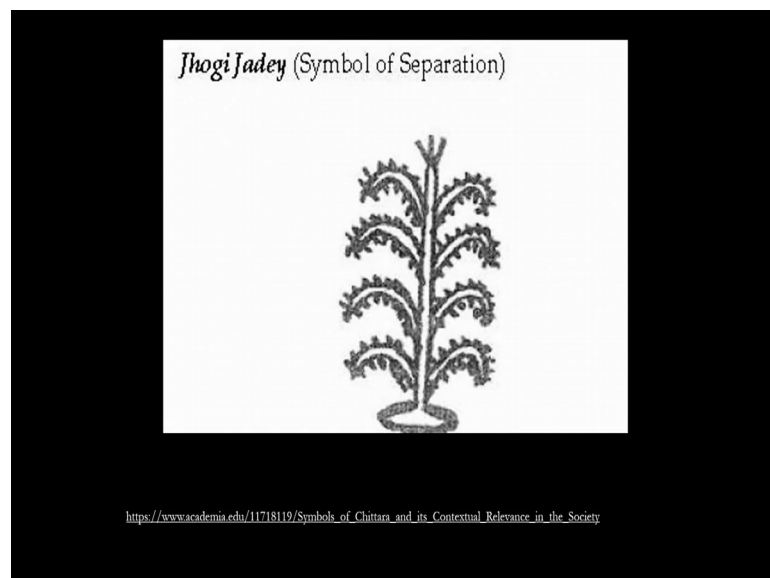
community. So, this symbol also represent space as well as the heart of a person, pay attention to how it is represented.

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This is a Sanctum Santorum that is the holy place where the gods are kept.

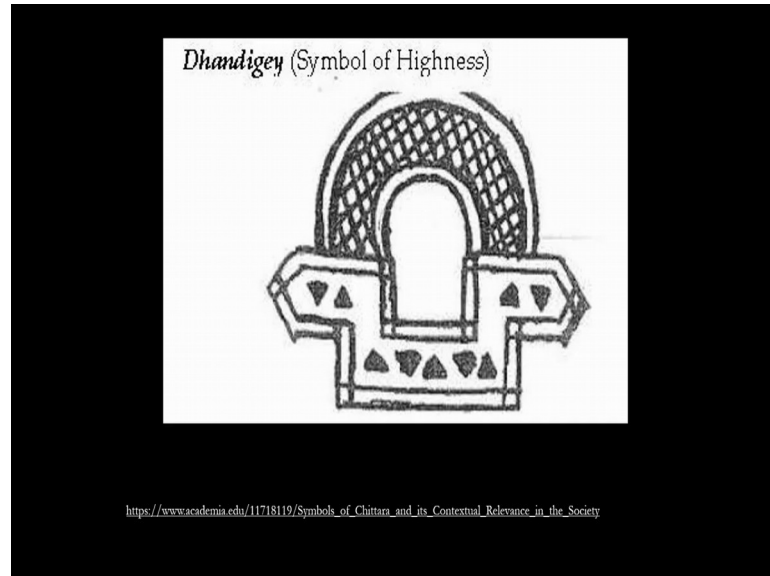
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So, this is a wheat which is drawn in the Chittara paintings this is that there are they could be unnecessary things that are in our life, but we should avoid them we should avoid distraction. So, that we have focused in our life this to this is to represent that we

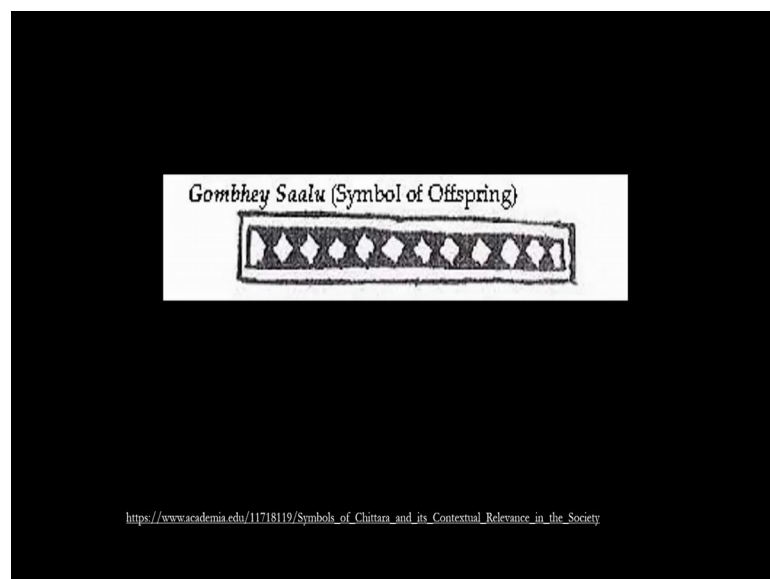
should not get distracted by the problems or the distraction in our life, but we should remain focused.

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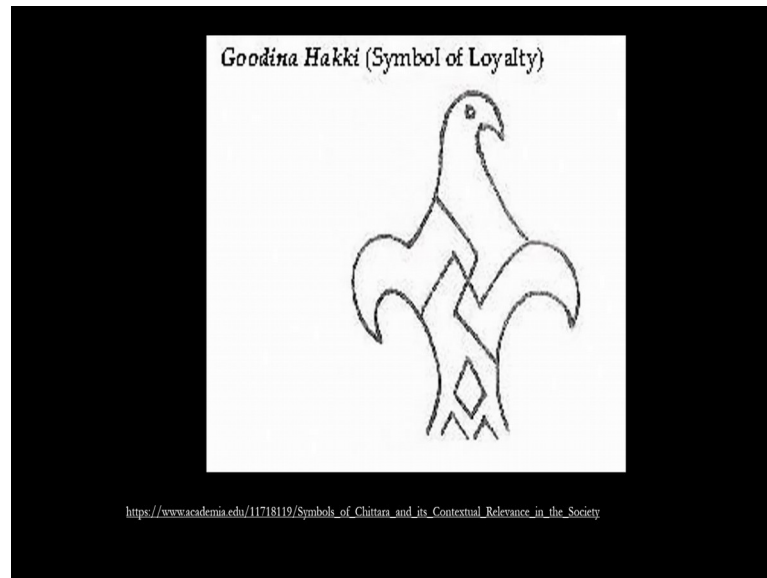
This is a palanquin used to carry gods and goddesses, but it is also shown carrying the newlyweds that is to say that during the wedding day the bride and the bridegroom are no less than god and goddesses, their sacred and their they should be revert.

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So, this is a form of to show offsprings this is drawn again in wedding scenes of Chittara painting. This is to say that the elders give blessings to the couple so, that they have lots of offsprings.

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So, this is a bird symbol of a bird which is used to depict loyalty; this is actually a bird whose incubating in the nest protecting and guarding her eggs while the male has gone out to fetch food for them food for her. This is to say that the both male and a female in a relationship should be loyal to each other while one takes care of the home other goes to fetch food, but they should remain loyalty one the couple should have enough trust in each other so, that they have a successful life.

So, friends, these are the some of the motifs used in Chittara painting, please go through the slides and see how they are represented. But I must say that these symbols which I have shown you are not exhaustive, there are very many other symbols to depict different aspects of life

The Chittara painting has a large vocabulary which talks about different aspects of life and how one should have a good life very prosperous life is depicted in Chittara painting. So, you can see that the symbols used in the paintings are related to the belief system of the Deewaru community what they think are the values of the community. So, looking at each of the symbols of other folk paintings also you can understand the world view of the community, you can see what values they give importance to in their lives.

So, we stop today with this we will discuss the techniques of another art form in the next class see you then.