



Deepti Designs  
It's Trendy to be Traditional

# THE BEACON

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## UNVEILING KUTEER

Building and painting Kuteer has been a delightful opportunity for the Deepti Designs' family. Kuteer is a wooden house representing the vibrant traditional village houses in Bihar, where the ethnic Madhubani art form originated. In Bihar, Madhubani is adorned all over walls of the houses, illuminating the villages, which is what is represented through Kuteer. Currently, Kuteer is being showcased at Redmond Lights, a festival of lights and art at Redmond Downtown Park. It is available for viewing till January 4, 2023. Thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who contributed to this amazing project!

## IACS AT NORTH BELLEVUE COMMUNITY CENTER

This month's IACS workshop at the North Bellevue Community Center was a great opportunity to spread Madhubani art to kids aged 11-14. In this workshop all 32 kids got the opportunity to decorate clay pots with Madhubani designs.

**Ms Nikita Thakalath** spearheaded the workshop with the help of **Hansika** and her family and we applaud them for their contribution.



## NEW OPPORTUNITY - IMPORTANT

Our school has been given an unprecedented opportunity to showcase our artists' works at **A/NT Gallery**, a prestigious art gallery in the compound of Seattle Center. The show will exhibit about 40 pieces of Madhubani artworks for the whole month of **March**. The artists will volunteer in installation and wind up. There will be a formal opening reception where a few artists will be giving presentations on their pieces. At the Closing Ceremony, we will host a free art workshop at the gallery. There is a **\$40** participation fee per artist to cover the cost of the event. Please reach out to **Ms. Agrawal** asap if you would like to participate.



## BOTHELL ROCKS

#bothellrocks is a rock painting initiative by the community where they hide painted rocks all over the Bothell area to spread kindness, love and good vibes. On December 3rd, they hosted a booth at the Main Street Bothell as part of the Christmas Tree Lighting event where visitors enjoyed decorating rocks in a holiday market. Artists **Sanika, Shriya, Mahathi, Aarianna, Mahima, Yashvy,** and **Anugraha** volunteered to help set up, clean up and run the booth during the event. The event was a huge success and we appreciate the artists for lending a hand to the community.



## GANJIFA CARDS WORKSHOP

On December 10th and 11th, Deepti Designs collaborated with **Ms. Supraja G** from **Aditiyeva Studio** to host an online card making workshop. The workshop featured **Mr. Bhaskar Mohapatra**, an artist who has won The National Award in 2015 and has had his work gifted to the French President on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Mohapatra taught and integrated the historical significance of Trimurti (trinity in Sanskrit) and Tridevi (three Goddesses) onto Ganjifa cards. The Tridevi are typically represented by the goddesses Saraswati, Lakshmi, and Parvati or Durga and Ganjifa is an ancient card game that originated in Persia and later spread to India.



# REFLECTIONS 2022

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” ~John F. Kennedy.

Rising from the pandemic years filled with uncertainty, 2022 is a year packed with involvement, impact, and success. For the Beacon Newsletter’s **one-year anniversary milestone**, we reflect on the big-scale community impacts of the school woven intricately throughout the year. After returning back in-person, Deepti Designs has reached its all-time high this year, integrating its mission of preserving the ethnic arts with magnificent community projects. The school has partnered and connected with several local to international organizations to spread its impact, including the **WA State Arts Commission, City of Redmond, Northshore School District, Seattle Center, King County Library System, Humanities WA, Friends of Asian Arts Association, Seattle Art Museum**, and many more. Various cultural and societal backgrounds came together and took part collaboratively in contributing towards the success of these community projects. Through the inauguration of the **Wind Beneath the Wings**, the non-profit branch, the school as a team used the ancient art form as a means to encourage art involvement and societal change, designing **workshops**, establishing the **Kindness Crew** for senior citizens, etc. The art school also amalgamated various cultures/art forms with several workshops from international artists such as **Mr. Drdha Vrata Gorrick, Ms. Supraja Ganesh, Mr. Ashish Das, Mr. Bhaskar Mohapatra**, and more to rejuvenate heritage and raise awareness of such traditional art forms.

For her extensive dedicated work, leadership, and passion for spreading art in the community, our very own **Ms. Deepti Agrawal** was honored with the Governor’s Art and Heritage Award, which is a pinnacle we reached all-together along with her. Deepti Designs has been able to build an exceptionally strong art community this year and all thanks to constant support from our **students, parents, teachers** and **patrons** who continue to devote their passion for the art form and community. Here’s to a successful year for Deepti Designs and stepping into another one!



## QUIZ

### 1. Where did the card game Ganjifa originate?

- a. China      b. Persia      c. India      d. Sri Lanka

### 2. What does Trimurti translate to in Sanskrit?

- a. Trinity      b. Triangular      c. Together      d. Trait

### 3. Where do women in Bihar traditionally paint in their house?

- a. Roof      b. Windows      c. Walls      d. Floor

### 4. What did kids paint at the IACS workshop?

- a. Mini Canvases      b. Wooden boards      c. Bookmarks      d. Clay pots