

CRAFTED IN NEPAL

A Concept Paper

CRAFTED IN NEPAL is a source of handcrafts from the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal. In this project our aim is to sell the handmade sterling silver and beaded jewellery, lotka paper, pottery, baskets, paintings, sculpture and other traditional and religious artwork of Nepal which are made by the artisan of Nepal. The artists which we promote would not only created the beautiful products of jewellery, paper, pottery, baskets and artwork, they are contributing their skills and time into renovating temples, historic monuments, and keeping the rituals of this ancient way of life alive. The royalties from the sales of these handicrafts would help to enrich the lifestyle of the artisans, and gives them the opportunity to improve the infrastructure of their ancient city.

The Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal is a living heritage. Every temple, whether it was built thousands of years ago, or in recent times are still being used on a daily basis. Festivals and rituals for all occasions are performed as they have been for multiple generations. Every day through out the city, rituals are taking place, even in the middle of the busy Durbar (Palace) Square. Then rounding a corner into a courtyard, a group of young girls and their families could be in the middle of the marriage ceremony to the god Vishnu. A young woman gets married 3 times. The first marriage is to Vishnu (the protector), the second is to the sun, and the third is to their mortal husband. These ceremonies allow their daughters to always be married and ensure protection. Every day there are thousand of cultural rituals performing by people in Nepal.

Nepal is extremely rich in cultural heritage. It has eight monuments listed as World Heritage Sites: Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur Durbar Squares, Changu Narayan, Swayambhu, Boudha, Lumbini (Birth Place of Buddha) and Pashupati Nath Temple. But, UNESCO has, however, said that some of these sites may be removed from the list because they have not been properly preserved and managed. Besides the World Heritage Sites, UNESCO has also listed about 2200 major monuments in Kathmandu valley alone. Many of these sites however, need urgent attention. Similarly, the cultural practices are being vanishing day by day. So there is an urgent need that we have to stop this.

Everything begins with the artisans. Without the mask maker or musical instrument maker there would be no festival. Without the gold and silversmiths certain ceremonial jewelry, decorative icons in temples, and wine jugs the traditions would be lost. Without the painters the ancient Buddhist and Hindu stories would be lost and never told. Without the wood carvers, who would renovate the temples? Each temple has amazing hand carved struts and pillars decorated with religious icons and stories. Without the ceramic artists creating pottery and sculpture generations of potters in the ceramic town of Thimi would no longer exist.

The process does not have to stop after the initial investment. Trade can replace aid. Cultures, already rich with tradition and creativity, can be apart of the worldwide market place and have the ability to help themselves and the world.

So our whole concept would be marketing these Handicrafts produce by the artisan which would directly benefit them so that they would not leave their traditional profession. Similarly the profit generated by the sales of these products would be used up for the renovation of the monuments and help to revive the lost cultures of Nepal.

For More Information

Manish Thapa
Team Leader
Crafted In Nepal Project
Tel:00977-9841338599
Email: manish_thapa@hotmail.com