

Mamta Varma





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IFAM International Folk Art Market

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Master textile artisan Mamta Varma was born and raised in Lucknow, India, the traditional home of fine chikan textiles. In 1998, Varma opened Bhairvis Chikan, a cooperative textile center to train and employ women and girls in the art of traditional chikan-style Indian embroidery. With an eye for meticulously crafted, high-quality items, Varma has been able to provide dozens of regional women with a means of supporting themselves and their families. Textiles created by Varma and her team include elaborately designed, yet functional goods such as delicately embroidered household linens, natural silk shawls and saris, and breezy, effortlessly wearable cotton garments. The promotion and preservation of hand-woven fabric is an integral part of Varma's mission, and, together with Bhairvis Chikan's artisans, she works tirelessly to bring it back into mainstream chikan textile goods.