

**Quick Bites:  
Reference Points  
(for Ready Reference)**

**Embroideries of India:  
KANTHA**

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# Kantha

**Introduction:** Kantha (Kanta or Qanta) is a folk art of West Bengal that is a significant symbol of elegance and vividness. Kantha is prepared mainly in Hugli, Patna, Jessore, Faridpur, Khulna, Satagon regions

**Motifs:** Human or animal designs are common. Floral and foliage symbols which cover the surface corner to corner. Lotus flower, Satadala Padma, Mandala, Tree of life are popular centre of design. Sea monsters, fishes, pitcher, mermaids, comb, mirror, nutcracker, umbrella, chariots, palanquins etc are popular motifs.

**Fabric:** Old Saris placed one over the above in layers, tacked in running stitch, using white threads. The base material is commonly white, off white or cream.

**Thread:** Threads are usually taken from borders of discarded saris.

**Colours:** Blue Green, Yellow, Red, Black Orange etc

**Stitches:** Darning, Satin, stem stitches are used but the basic stitch is running stitch and the areas left are filled with the same running stitch, parallel to the motif.

Types: Arshilata, Bayton, Durjani, LepKantha, Oar (Ooar), Sujani,

**Products:** Quilts, Saris, Dupattas, Gents kurtas, Rumal, Bedspreads, pillow covers etc.

