

Even such seemingly mundane activities as carpentry, blacksmithing and weaving are part of Bhutan's heritage of *zoring chumsum*, and are therefore integral elements of Buddhist artistic tradition.

Painting

Drawing and Painting is called *lhazo* and encompasses all types of painting including *thangkas* (religious pictures), wall paintings and decorative paintings. Proficiency in *lhazo* is basic to all other arts. The geometric proportions and iconography that are essential to Buddhist art are important parts of the school of painting. Painting in particular the portrayal of human figures, are subject to strict rules of iconography. Paints are traditionally made from earth, minerals and vegetables though in recent times chemical colours are used.

Carpentry

Woodworking for the construction of dzongs, monasteries, houses and household goods is called *shingzo* (wood art).

Carving

The art of carving in wood, slate and stone is *parzo*. *Parzo* plays an important part in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition because most religious texts are printed from wooden blocks on which monks have laboriously carved a mirror image of the text.

Sculpture

Mud work known as *jinzo*, includes the making of clay statues and ritual objects such as drum stands, *torma* (ritual cakes) and masks. Most large statues are made by forming plaster or mud on a hollow frame and are a part of this tradition. *Jinzo* is understood specifically as the making of statues and ritual objects, but may also be applied to construction works using mortar, plaster and rammed earth.

Casting

Lugzo applies to two types of casting; sand casting and the lost-wax method. *Lugzo* craftsmen produce statues, bells and ritual instruments. The term is also used for jewellery and less exotic items such as kitchen goods.

Blacksmithing

The *garzo* tradition is the manufacture of iron goods such as swords, knives, chisels, axes, spades, shovels, darts, helmets, chains and plough blades.

Bamboo Work

The art of working with cane and bamboo is *tshazoo*. These craftsmen produce bows and arrows, *bangchung* (baskets) to carry food, *zem* and *palang* for storing and carrying *arra* and *chang* (local drinks), *belo* (bamboo hats), *redi* (bamboo mats), *lachu* and *bohm* for storing grains and *balep* (bamboo thatch).

Goldsmithing and Silversmithing

The art of working with gold and silver is called serzo ngulzo. These craftsmen produce objects ranging from household goods to jewellery to ritual objects. Some of these objects include koma japha (brooches and chains), thingkhap (rings), chaka timi and batha (cases for carrying doma- betel nut), dung (ritual trumpets), dorji (thumberbolt symbols) and gau (Buddhist amulets).

Weaving

The entire process of weaving, from preparation of yarn, to dyeing and eventually to the final weaving is called thagzo. See the special section 'The Wrap & the Weft' in the eastern Bhutan Chapter.

Embroidery

The art of working with needle and thread is tshemzo. There are two categories of tshemzo. Tshendrup is embroidery and includes traditional boot making. The second is lhendrup (applique), the technique of sewing pieces of cloth onto a background to produce a picture. This process is used in thondrols such as the ones displayed at dzongs during tsechus.

Masonry

The art of cutting and stacking stone walls is called dozo. This term is especially applied to the construction of the huge stone outer walls of dzongs, monasteries and other buildings.

Leather Work

The art of working with leather is kozo. These craftsmen produce such items as gayu, the leather bags for carrying grains, and shada, leather ropes and belts for swords.

Paper-making

The art of making paper is dezo. The word de refers to the daphne plant, from which the traditional paper is made.