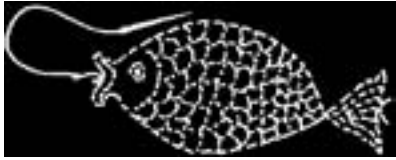


# KATNA'S KANTHAS



Fine hand embroidery from  
MURSHIDABAD

A Street Survivors India  
SWYAMSHAKTI  
project for rural women



Our basic product range draws from a distinct style of Bengal embroidery applied to the creation of coverlets. The **lep kantha** of old involved poor village women sewing together layers of old cloth with running stitches. Their meticulous artistry transformed worn out rags into extraordinarily beautiful creations that could withstand further usage.

Till today, this combination of thrift and aesthetics is not mass-produced. The intricate geometry of our design and the near absence of folk motifs continue to be a notable feature of Muslim kantha-making traditions of Murshidabad.

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## SIX REASONS FOR YOU TO BUY A KANTHA FROM KATNA

- Because it is a **Great** buy
- Because buying enhances the self-worth of women stepping out to earn independently for the first time
- Because you agree that awareness only **empowers** when it generates food and dignity at the end of the day
- Because your contribution helps women use traditional embroidery to literally '**needle**' structures of domination
- Because you become part of an initiative that unites women with each other and connects them all to a school seeking to educate them and their children
- Because, if all these reasons work for you, then you would have helped us demonstrate the benefit of education in the only way tangible: linking it to **equal opportunity** and to **justice**



Since 1998, STREET SURVIVORS INDIA has been working out of a village called Katna in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, attempting meaningful linkages between education & women's development in order to strengthen a school initiative called **Jagriti**. Our first breakthrough was the creation of STREESHAKTI, a community-based arbitration programme seeks to provide women victims of crime with access to justice. This hugely popular forum now conducts hearings three times weekly, issues summons that are almost universally respected, and has handled over 500 cases since 2003.

Its success forms the basis of SWYAMSHAKTI, a project that harnesses women's craft skills to generate economic and social empowerment.

The label 'Katna's Kanthas' represents the collective effort of 250 women - members of a growing network from over 22 villages in the Burwan & Khargram Blocks of Murshidabad's Kandi subdivision.