



Rural
Craft
Hub

Clay Doll

Ghurni
Nadia

Supported by the Department of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal and
West Bengal Khadi & Village Industries Board

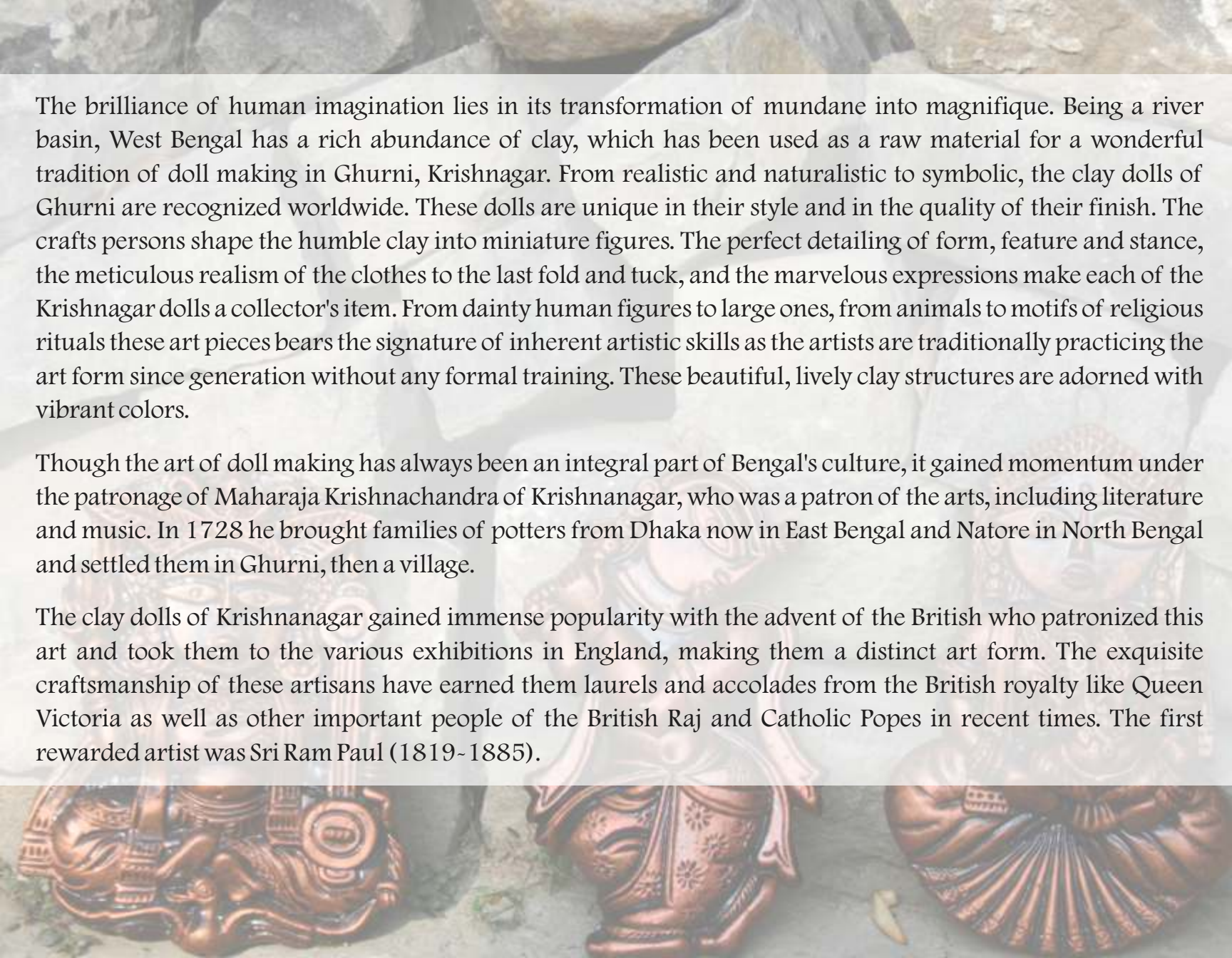


Rural Craft Hubs Of West Bengal



Handicrafts of Bengal embody our rich heritage of aesthetics, creativity and artistry. The craft sector provides low cost, green livelihood opportunities to more than 5.5 lakh men and women. The sector represents economic lifeline of the vulnerable sections of the society, with women accounting for around 50% of the crafts persons and a significant number belonging to the scheduled castes, tribes and religious minorities. In today's globalised world, the growing retail industry, fashion and luxury markets, demand for green production, potential for e-commerce have created new opportunities for developing a vibrant craft economy thereby providing increased income opportunities to the craft communities like the Patuas, potters, weavers, wood carvers, Dokra makers etc. Besides its high potential for employment, the craft sector is economically important from the point of low capital investment, high ratio of value addition, and high potential for export and foreign exchange earnings for the country. The Government of West Bengal thus aims to unleash the potential of the sector in terms of employment, enterprises, export and growth.

The Department of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal in collaboration with UNESCO, New Delhi is developing 10 rural craft hubs in the state. The vision is to develop the villages with families traditionally skilled in craft traditions like Sitalpati, Madurkathi, Terracotta, Patachitra, Dokra, Wooden and Chau masks, Wooden and Clay doll making and Kantha as vibrant craft hubs connected to national and international market.



The brilliance of human imagination lies in its transformation of mundane into magnificent. Being a river basin, West Bengal has a rich abundance of clay, which has been used as a raw material for a wonderful tradition of doll making in Ghurni, Krishnagar. From realistic and naturalistic to symbolic, the clay dolls of Ghurni are recognized worldwide. These dolls are unique in their style and in the quality of their finish. The crafts persons shape the humble clay into miniature figures. The perfect detailing of form, feature and stance, the meticulous realism of the clothes to the last fold and tuck, and the marvelous expressions make each of the Krishnagar dolls a collector's item. From dainty human figures to large ones, from animals to motifs of religious rituals these art pieces bears the signature of inherent artistic skills as the artists are traditionally practicing the art form since generation without any formal training. These beautiful, lively clay structures are adorned with vibrant colors.

Though the art of doll making has always been an integral part of Bengal's culture, it gained momentum under the patronage of Maharaja Krishnachandra of Krishnagar, who was a patron of the arts, including literature and music. In 1728 he brought families of potters from Dhaka now in East Bengal and Natore in North Bengal and settled them in Ghurni, then a village.

The clay dolls of Krishnagar gained immense popularity with the advent of the British who patronized this art and took them to the various exhibitions in England, making them a distinct art form. The exquisite craftsmanship of these artisans have earned them laurels and accolades from the British royalty like Queen Victoria as well as other important people of the British Raj and Catholic Popes in recent times. The first rewarded artist was Sri Ram Paul (1819-1885).



Musical Instrument Maker Doll

S: 6.2 x 3.5 inch
W: 250 gm
Code: HD113
RCH: Ghurni



Gandhi Doll

S: 11.5 x 4 inch
Code: HD170
RCH: Ghurni



Mason Doll

S: 6.2 x 3.5 inch

W: 250 gm

Code: HD171

RCH: Ghurni



Vegetable Seller Doll

S: 6.2 x 3.5 inch

W: 250 gm

Code: HD112

RCH: Ghurni



Vaisnav Doll

S: 7.1 x 9 inch
W: 250 gm
Code: HD109
RCH: Ghurni



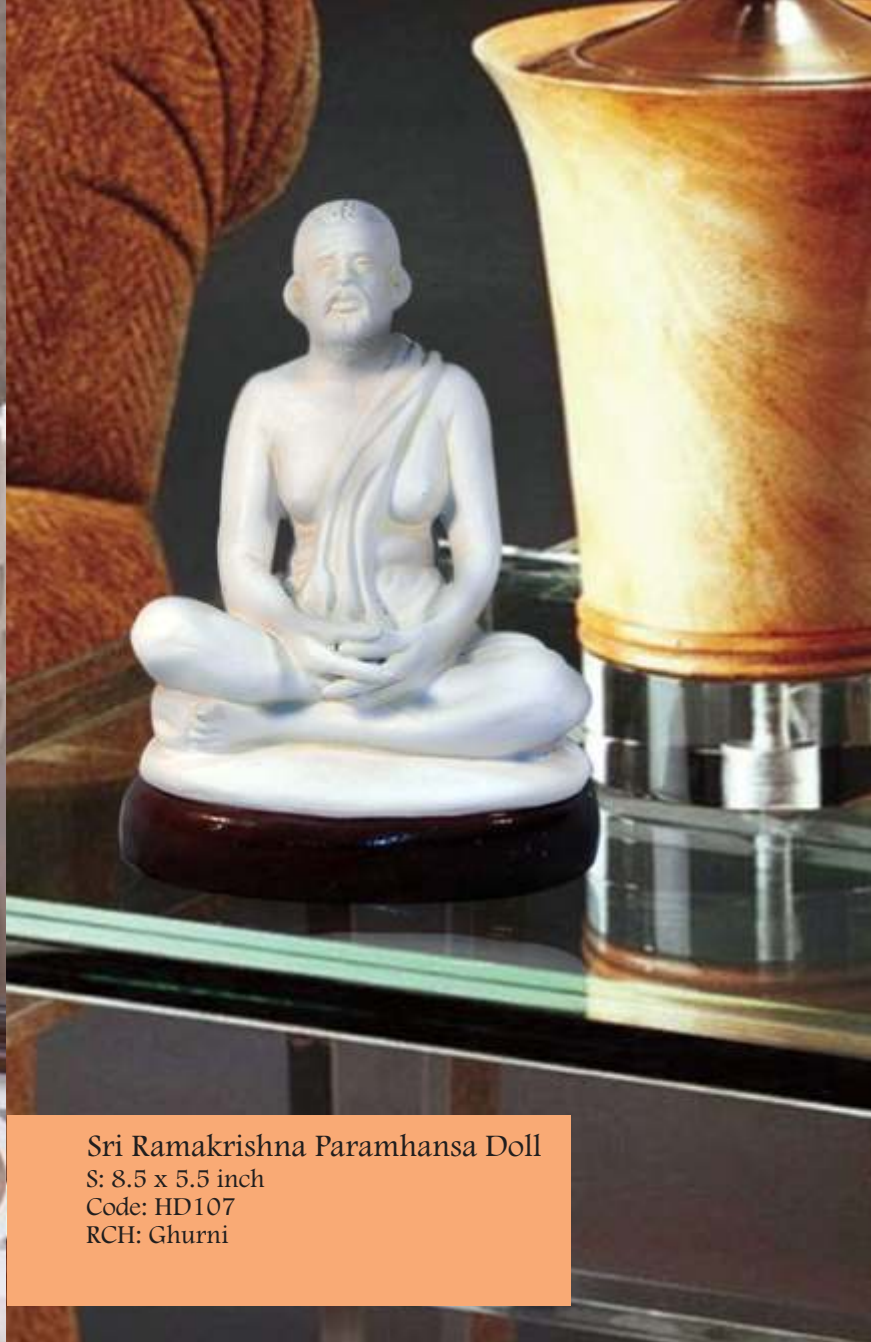
Bird Hunter Doll

S: 7.1 x 9 inch
W: 250 gm
Code: HD284
RCH: Ghurni



Old Couple Doll

S: 7.1 x 9 inch
W: 371 gm
Code: HD103
RCH: Ghurni



Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa Doll

S: 8.5 x 5.5 inch
Code: HD107
RCH: Ghurni



Mother & Child Doll

S: 6.9 x 3.8 inch
Code: HD104
RCH: Ghurni



Woman & Goose Doll

S: 6.9 x 4 inch
Code: HD108
RCH: Ghurni



Girl Doll
Code: HD197
RCH: Ghurni



Small Child Doll
Code: HD198
RCH: Ghurni



Pen Stand
Code: HD200
RCH: Ghurni



Cat Doll
Code: HD201
RCH: Ghurni

Artists' Contacts

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Deb Kumar Paul	9333211258
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