



# Transform- Trondheim International Festival September 9-15, 2019

## Green Ivory Shola craft tradition of Bengal

Shola also referred to as Indian cork is a milky-white spongy plant botanically known as *Aeschynomene aspera*. Shola grows in wild, waterlogged and marshy areas of Bengal and has unique properties of being pure white and delicate.

The product ranges are varied. Ritualistic products, Decorative products, Replica Models and Puppets are the most important of the lot. Shola craft is associated with Bengali's greatest Festival Durga Puja. The idols are decorated with Sholapith ornaments which are done by most of the Shola craftspeople. Topor (wedding headdress) and Sheethi Mukut are important parts of Bengali wedding which are also commonly found in every region.

The tradition of Shola craft stretches throughout Bengal, covering the districts of Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Burdwan, Medinipur, South 24 Parganas and Howrah with prominent diversities in each region.



**Kamal Malakar** is an eminent artist from Surul Village of Birbhum. He runs a small Shola unit with 8-10 people. After his education in design from Kalabhavan, he started to develop the tradition into different crafts. He sells his products to the Government craft emporium Manjusha. He has also been associated with the Export Promotional Council of India and has exported to various countries such as New York, Italy Oman and Germany. Mr. Malakar regularly conducts training programs for younger people.



**Srikanta Paul** is a Master of Fine Arts in Graphics from Maharaja Sayajirao University (MSU), Baroda, 2001 and Bachelors of Visual Art in Painting from Rabindra Bharati University. Srikanta works as a guest lecturer at Rabindra Bharati University and as a visual art designer and art consultant. He has conducted several art workshops in schools, colleges and also design schools. He has also been a lecturer at Institute of Fine Arts, Ghaziabad. Apart from participation in exhibitions all across India, his creation is appreciated in international platforms at Turkey, USA, New Zealand and Finland.



**banglanatak dot com**

58/114 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045

website: [www.banglanatak.com](http://www.banglanatak.com), [www.rcchbengal.com](http://www.rcchbengal.com)

e-mail: [banglanatak@gmail.com](mailto:banglanatak@gmail.com)