



THE SARAYAN COLLECTION

— MOONJ GRASSDECOR —

Tisser
hand to heart

THE STORY

The Sarayan river which flows thru the district of Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh which is a small tributary to river Gomti has been the inspiration for the collection.

The story of this collection is like the story of the river. The small tributary flows into the famous Gomti and quickly gets forgotten. The Moonj products in Sitapur also live under the shadow of the famous durries coming from the same region. A region with amazing talent of the women artisans. Their work with Moonj grass and their techniques are different from the practise in the rest of the state and adjoining areas. Their infectious smiles and laughter are also impossible to miss.

A special collection that was developed during the pandemic and does tend to bring a sense of calm and tranquillity to the home

Moonj is a wild grass that grows along the seasonal ponds or larger water sources that is harvested by hand usually during the monsoons. The women travel long distances from their villages to harvest this grass, a time-consuming task, as only the central stem of the grass needs to be gathered rather than the whole grass itself. After a few days of sun drying the grass is lighter in colour and then the actual process begins. Moonj is cut, shaved and dyed in different colours and left out to dry again. Only after this initial preparation which spans over a few days and involves a lot of hard work, is the grass ready to be woven into gorgeous and stunning pieces of baskets and many other extremely efficient and handy products.

Tisser India, an independent not for profit trust, works with a focus on social responsibility. It works closely with corporates, domain experts, service providers and recipient communities to support projects related to skills, livelihood enhancement and sustainability. Tisser India have lent their support in terms of design and market linkages, to sustain this craft and make it more adaptable for the urban/ international set-up. The effort involved working closely with the women from Sitapur district to introduce modern designs and forms.

More details at <https://tisserindia.com/>





Sizes used
18"-Two Plates | 14"-One Plate | 10"-Two Plates | 6"-Two Plates



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Blues Fan



Blues Starburst



Blues Sunflower



Blues Zigzag



..... 18"



..... 14"



..... 10"



..... 6"

Warm Fan



Warm Starburst



Warm Sunflower



Warm Zigzag



..... 18"



..... 14"



..... 10"



..... 6"



Ethnic Wall Mount
Sizes Available: 10", 12" and 15"





African Wall Mount
Sizes Available: 10", 12" and 15"





Starburst Wall Mount
Sizes Available: 10", 12" and 15"





Spiral Wall Mount
Size Available: 14"





Indonesian Wall Mount
Size Available: 14"





Gift Boxes in colors Red, Yellow, Blue & Orange
Size: 8" x 3"





Crow Feet Planters
Size: 10" x 10" with handle | 8" x 8" without handle





Ethnic Boxes in colors Red & Blue
Size: 10"x 4" | 8" x 3"





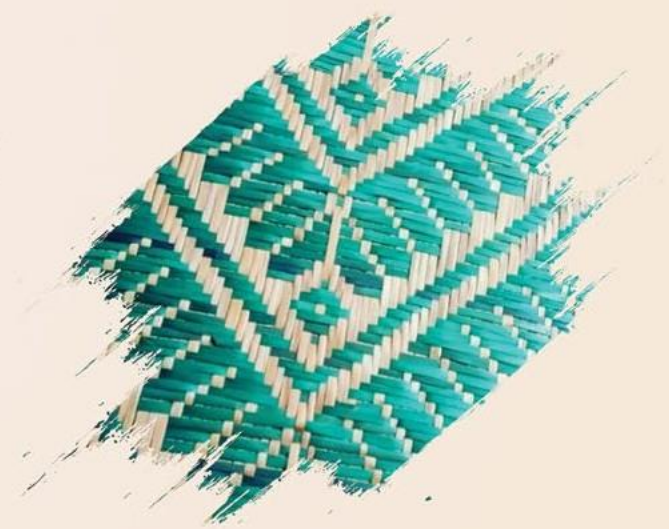
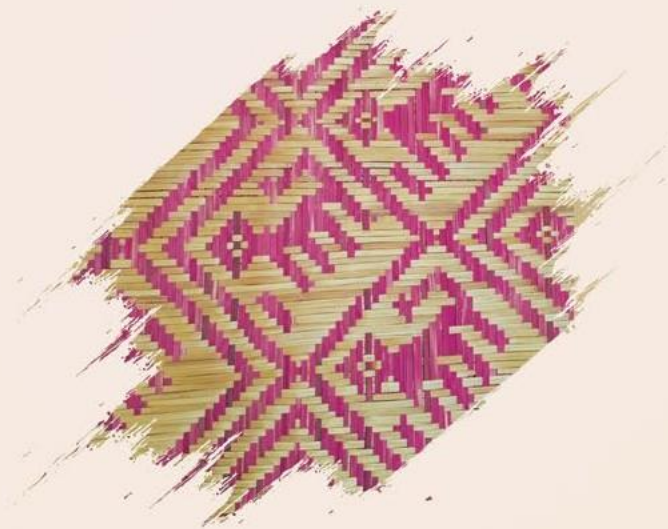
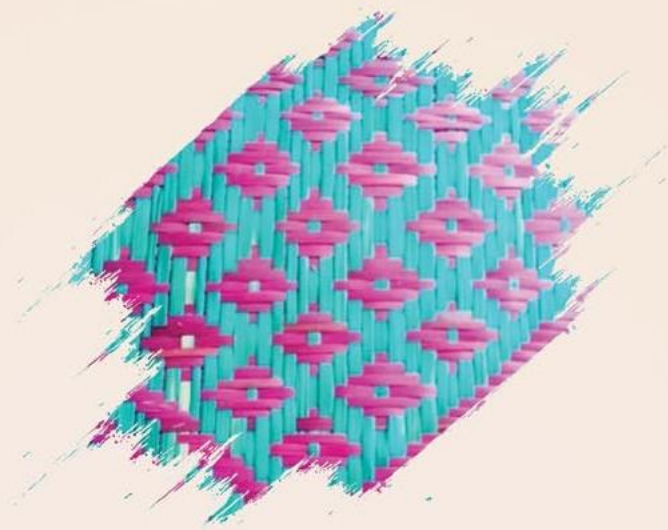
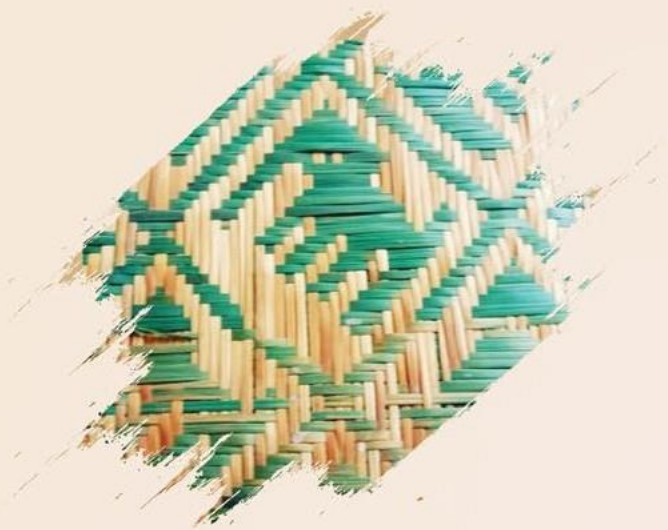
Trivets in colors Yellow, Majenta & Blue
Size: 8" Diameter





Lidded baskets in colors Yellow, Majenta & Blue
Size: 8" Diameter x 3" Height





WEAVE EXPLORATION IN SITAPUR

As a part of scouting the various handicrafts in District Sitapur, we discovered yet another famous traditional craft using the Sikki grass. This grass also belongs to the Moonj plant, and it is available from November to February. Unlike Moonj, Sikki grass is not that abundantly available and hence it's more expensive.

The initial process of harvesting and getting the grass ready for knitting remains the same as Moonj weaving. However, since Sikki grass by itself does not have much strength, Moonj is used alongside as the strength provider. Moonj is coiled and completely covered with Sikki to the extent that Moonj is not even visible under its encasing. While coiling the Moonj grass, Sikki is kept slightly wet to make it more pliable. It is then dyed in different colors by the artisans as per the requirement of the design.

The most popular item made from Sikki grass are the handheld fans, popularly known as the Pankhas. Beautiful and colorful patterns and motifs are woven keeping the base in natural color that lends a gorgeous contrast and uplifts the entire design.

These were commonly made during the summer season, but this craft has lost its demand over time. There are roughly just 5-10 artisans in each village that are skilled in this technique now. Nonetheless, we were able to identify various designs created by the local artisans, some of which have been showcased here.





----- CONTACT US -----

✉ info@tisserindia.com
order@tisserindia.com

<https://tisserindia.com/>
☎ +91 90824 83515

📷 [/tisserindia](#)