

## Pithora Paintings



Pithora is a ritualistic painting done on the walls by the [Rathwa](#), [Bhils](#) and [Bhilala](#) tribes

Historically, they were cave, wall and rock paintings. Baba Pithora is the tribal deity, on whose honour the paintings are made. Other local gods are also honoured.

Everything connected with the Bhil life is painted – the Sun, the Moon, the animals, trees, insects, rivers, fields, mythological figures, the god.



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**In modern times, the paintings have evolved to include modern symbols like guns and planes too. The painters are usually males, called as 'Lakhindra'.**

**The process begins with 'Lipai' that consists of setting the background of walls with dung, water and chuna by the unmarried girls**

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Painted in spectacular and vivid reds, greens, oranges, blues and pinks, with brushes made from branches of **Tendu and Palash** trees.



These paintings are distinguished by the lucky and sacred mascots- the horses, sun and the moon. Birds, animals, trees, etc are also found.



An important feature of authentic **Pithora** art is that no two paintings are ever similar, which becomes a unique selling points for the artists.



**Bhuri Bai is an Indian Bhil artist. She was born in Pitol village**

**Bhuri was proficient in the making of [Pithora paintings](#).**

**In the village, we had to work so hard to extract colour from plants and clay. And here I was given so many shades of colour and a ready made brush.**



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She has won many awards, She was awarded India's fourth highest civilian award the [Padma Shri](#) in 2021 and including the highest state honour accorded to artists by the Madhya Pradesh government, the Shikhar Samman(1986).

Ahaliya Samman, 1998

Rani Durgavati Award, 2009

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**Prema Fatya, the Bhil artist of Jhabua preferred to live in Jhabua. His work in Pithora houses adorn the walls of the Museum of Mankind at IGRMD, in Bhopal, where in the mythology trail, he has depicted the Bhil myth of *Pithora Kunwar*.**



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