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Research Paper

Traditional and modern expressions of *Phulkari*

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Handicrafts offer reflections to the artistic creativity rendered by the people of a region producing a traditional masterpiece even though moulded with the winds of time. These crafts serve as the roots of the ethnic fashions that shape the trends and innovations of the coming future. *Phulkari* craft is from the land of five rivers - Punjab which has experienced such transformation emerging out of the changing times and trends. The artefact being an important element of the cultural heritage of Punjab needs to be revitalized. The various traditional aspects of the craft need to be compared with its modern form to review all transformations. Documentation of both traditional and contemporary articles worked with *Phulkari* embroidery was undertaken to study the historical aspects and the modifications. The work was an attempt to preserve the essence of the craft serving the interest of the future generations.

■ **KEY WORDS**: *Phulkari*, Hand embroidery, Motifs, Traditional craft

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