

Banaras Brocade Saree

Background:

During the Mughal period, around 14th century, weaving of brocades with intricate designs using gold and silver threads became the specialty of Banaras. The Banaras Brocade sarees are made of finely woven silk and decorated with intricate design using jari and because of these ornamentations it is relatively heavy. Their special characteristics are Mughal inspired designs/elements such as intricate floral and foliate motifs kalga and bel. Other features are gold work, compact weaving, figures with small details, metallic visual effects, jal (a net like pattern) and meena work.

Material used:

Two fold twisted mulberry silk yarn, locally called "Katan" is used in both ground warp & weft with gold and / or silver zari for designing.

Techniques applied:

Banaras brocade sarees are woven on conventional Banaras handloom jacquard and sometimes with jala, pagia & naka attachment for creation of motif. For weaving of ground fabric 5 to 8 heald shafts are used for ground fabric and designs are woven in weft of different materials and colours. Satin weave is used in the ground fabric.

How to distinguish Banaras Brocade:

- The Banaras brocade made of silk and jari are heavily designed with intricate floral and / or spotted motifs.
- Satin weave used in the base fabric.
- Metallic visual effects prominently appears in the fabric.
- Floats of wefts are not found in face or in back side of the fabric.
- It has heavy weight due to use of metallic yarn and compound texture.

