



Rangoli

Rangoli is a Sanskrit word which means a creative expression of art through the use of color. The designs can be permanent or temporary, inside or out, large or small. Designs often start with a grid of dots. Swirls are made around each point without lifting the pen.

In Indian villages, rangoli are created with colored rice flour in the streets and also decorate home entrances to welcome visitors, especially during Diwali, the Indian festival of lights. Often, they are meant to be temporary as the rains or activities of the day will wash them away. Yet, each day, the designs are made anew. They are homage to the divine, a message of gratitude to God for the gift of life — as well as an acknowledgment that everything in life (including life itself) is temporary and fleeting. Still, we get up each day and try to make the world a more beautiful place with the gifts God has given us. Rangoli are seen as expressions of peoples' devotion to God.

Use the dot grid on the back to design and color your own Rangoli!



