

Craft Matters: Artisans, Development and the Indian Nation



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Reviews

The book is not difficult in read through better to recognize. It really is written in straightforward terms instead of confusing. I am happy to inform you that this is actually the finest publication I actually have read in my individual daily life and may be the best book for possibly.
(Valerie Heaney)

CRAFT MATTERS: ARTISANS, DEVELOPMENT AND THE INDIAN NATION



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Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi, India, 2009. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. Craft Matters explores the ways in which traditional Indian craft producers engage with the efforts of government and non governmental agencies to preserve, promote and develop their crafts. Based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork among the Labbai Muslim mat weavers of Pattamadai town in South India, this anthropological study explores the ways in which the famous pattu pai or high-quality silk-like mats of Pattamadai became classified as traditional craft objects, and what this classification has meant to the weavers who are now simultaneously national heroes and (paradoxically) marginalized and suspect Muslims. Handwoven by poor Muslims and bought by elite Tamil Hindus for use in marriage ceremonies and as craft objects by other affluent sections of society, the mats are made within the literature to embody liberal ideals of harmony between Hindus and Muslim, rural poor and urban elites, the past and the present, and tradition and modernity. The mats make their weavers accepted and celebrated within the wider nation, allowing them to act on the national stage. However, this is constantly constrained by the very ways in which craft is conceptualized in India. This book will be of interest to anthropologists concerned with the agency of objects, the production of persons through things and the working of development on the ground. Written in a lively and jargon-free style, it will also be of interests to scholars of development, development practitioners and all those fascinated by craft. Printed Pages: 316. Size: 14 x 22 Cm.



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